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Rahal urges Israeli pullout from Lebanon

BAALBEK (AP) — A U.S. congressman said Tuesday an Israeli withdrawal from a flashpoint border enclave in South Lebanon will boost peace hopes in the Middle East. "It's obvious there has to be a withdrawal of Israeli troops in the south and a securing of the Lebanese border by the Lebanese. Once that occurs, I have the utmost confidence peace will be at hand," U.S. Representative Nick Rahal told reporters in this ancient city in eastern Lebanon. He spoke after touring Roman ruins in the famous Baalbek eastle in the Bekaa Valley. Despite major obstacles in peace negotiations between Syria and Israel, Mr. Rahal struck an upbeat note about a comprehensive Middle East peace. "I'm confident there will be a peace agreement. We want to see the sovereignty of Lebanon maintained in this process. We want to see a comprehensive peace in the entire region," he said. "But I'm sure there will be ups and downs and frustrations before that day is reached," he added.



Turkey: No federation with Kurds

DIYARBAKIR (R) — Turkey has no ethnic problem and setting up a federation to resolve an 11-year-old Kurdish separatist rebellion is out of the question. Interior Minister Nahit Mentese said on Tuesday. "It is not possible for us to accept such ideas as a federation," Mr. Mentese said in the first public reaction by a government minister to an academic report released by an influential business group last week urging Ankara to improve its treatment of Turkey's riore than 10 million Kurds. "Turkey has no ethnic problem. We shall preserve its unitary structure," he told reporters on a visit to Diyarbakir, the biggest city in the mainly Kurdish southeast. The report, released by the Union of Chambers and Trade Bourses, included a rare poll of more than 1,200 Kurds, most of whom said they would choose autonomy or being part of a federation if they had the chance to change Turkey's political structure. More than 17,500 people have died in the fight by the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) for independence of

Volume 19 Number 5989 AMMAN WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 1995, RABI' AWAL 11, 1416

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Tuesday addresses a major gathering at the Royal Cultural Centre attended by His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben

Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Oasem and other senior officials to mark the anniversary of the Prohet Mohammad's birth-

PLO, Israel agree on pullout timetable

Arafat, Peres work on redeployment

TABA, Egypt (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel took a big step towards expanding long-delayed Palestinian autonomy with an agreement announced Tuesday setting a timetable for Israel's withdrawal from occupied parts of the West

The deal came during talks tween PLO and Israeli delegates that began Monday in this Red Sea resort on clearing the way for Palestinian elections. Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shi-mon Peres met for a second time Tuesday evening after making headway in five hours

of talks the day before. The Palestinians won the definite timetable, which they had long demanded, but agreed to allow Israel more time to complete the withdrawal, which will take until

at least February 1997. "We have for the first time an agreement on withdrawal. redeployment, and a timetable for this purpose. We have asked for that from the beginning," PLO spokesman Marwan Kanafani said.

Israel has already agreed to redeploy away from at least four West Bank towns before the elections to choose a Palestinian authority. Under the agreement, Israel will then withdraw its troops from other parts of the West Bank in three six-month stages.

The two sides have yet to decide on the date for the elections, but are pushing for them to be held in Decem-

Mr. Arafat said he and Mr. Peres would focus on details of the redeployment during their meeting Tuesday in Taba. Several issues, including sharing of water, still have to be resolved.

"There are still some obstacles and we hope that both of us will have the ability to overcome them, bypass them and reach acceptable results," Mr. Arafat said after meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in the Mediterranean city of Alex-

Before the latest round of talks, the PLO and Israel had agreed Israeli soldiers would pull out of the towns of Tulkarem, Nablus, Jenin and Kalkilya before the elec-

tions. The PLO also wants a withdrawal from Bethlehem and Ramallah at the same time. Israeli news reports said Israel has accepted the idea of including these cities, both close to Jerusalem, but wants to work out security for roads used by Jewish settlers in both areas.

Following the Israeli troops will then gradually withdraw from more areas over the three sixmonth periods, turning authority over to the Palestinians. Mr. Peres said the process could be completed by February or July 1997, depending on the date of the

elections. Those areas will include roads, territory controlled by the Israeli government - about 35 per cent of the West Bank - and areas along the

border between the West Bank and Israel proper. Still disputed is what will happen in Hebron, the site of the February 1993 massacre of at least 30 Palestinians by a

(Continued on page 7)

Grand ceremony marks the Prophet's birthday

AMMAN (Petra) - His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday attended the Kingdom's major ceremony marking the Prophet Mohammad's birthday at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).

Deputy Prime Minister and Information Minister Khaled Al Karaki delivered an address in which he paid tribute to the historical role of the Hashemite family since the time of the Prophet.

Dr. Karaki said Jordanians were inspired by the Prophet and the message of Islam, describing it "as light coming out of the sky to end the ages of dark-

He said on this anniversary Jordanians were pinning great hopes on the leadership of King Hussein. "At this eternal anniversary, we look to Your Majesty, who de-fends the unity of the nation and its right to life and freedom, to give us determination to continue our march," Dr. Karaki said.

Jordanian Ambassador to Tunisia and renowned poet Haidar Mahmoud also spoke at the ceremony, delivering a poem in which he dwelt on the Hashemite's role in defending holy places.

Senator Kamel Al Sharif also delivered an address and said Muslims in various parts of the world on this anniversary remember the Prophet, review their achievements Mr. Sharif said the

Prophet's message brought with it development to the Arab Nations and united it. The senator said Islam

and Arabism were one entity, describing those who try to separate the two as "people trying to separate the head from the body."

In another address, Minister of Awgaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi said the Prophet not only conveyed to people a divine message but also offered them a model and an example to follow and im-

Dr. Abbadi said Muslims dealt with the Prophet in a unique and unprecedented manner due to his way in building society and leading the masses

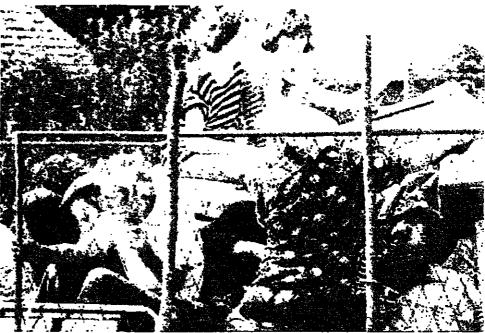
He said people nowadays were in dire need to follow the path of the Prophet and adopt his methodology and philoso-

The minister extolled the King's leadership and said His Majesty was actively leading his people through one of the most difficult stages in its history and at the same time was attempting to offer solutions to problems pla-guing the Arab World.
"There you are, Your

Majesty, trying to translate the Prophet's history into true stands supporting the oppressed and the weak, aiding refugees. and offering aid to the injured and care for orphans," he said.

At the end of the ceremony, King Hussein dis-tributed Al Kawkab medals of the Third Order to those who contributed to building mosques in various parts of the King-

The ceremony was attended by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abduli, Prince Faisal, Prince Hamzeh and Prince Hashem, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Qasem, the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, members of parliament, the King's advisors, ministers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the directors of the Public Security and Civil Defence departments and other senior officials.



Members of a refugee family from Krajina ride on the back of a lorry fleeing the town

after the Croatian army recaptured the town

Largest refugee exodus under way in Croatia

ZAGREB (Agencies) -Shells slammed down on columns of Serb refugees Tuesday, the United Nations said. as more than 100,000 people fled a stunning defeat by the Croatian army.

It was not immediately clear how many refugees may have been killed. U.N. officials also said they received unconfirmed reports of "indiscriminate shooting" of re-

The exodus may be the largest since fighting broke out in the former Yugoslavia four years ago. The Croatian captured a huge swath of Serb-held territory and sent many residents into Serb-held lands in Bosnia and

Serbia. In Paris, the international "contact group" warned that a Croatian offensive to retake eastern Slavonia from Serb secessionists could lead to a widening of the war in the former Yugoslavia.

Member countries of the contact group - Britain. France, Germany, Russia and the United States - expressed concern over such a move, threatened by Croatian Defence Minister Gojko Susak in the wake of Zagreb's successful offensive to retake Krajina at the weekend.

"There exists a real threat of a humanitarian disaster and a widening of the conflict towards a large-scale war,' Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said

"We cannot allow it," he said, reiterating Moscow's condemnation of the latest Croatian offensives which have wrested virtually all of Krajina from Serb control. Eastern Slavonia, an eco-

nomically rich area that borders on Serbia, is the last major chunk of Croatian territory still controlled by secessionist Croatian Serbs.

The German government called on Croatian President Franjo Tudjman to show restraint towards Krajina Serbs and to "contribute to easing of tensions and stabilisation in eastern Slavonia." In London, the Foreign

Office said the British government "would not welcome" the use of force by Croatia to retake eastern Sla-Such action would be

highly destabilising and that sector is particularly sensitive," a Foreign Office spokesman said. Paris repeated its conde-

mnation of Croatia's offensive in Krajina, and said it was worried about respect for human rights in the reigon. U.N. spokesman Yuri Shishaev said an estimated 120,000 Serbs were on the move in Croatia. In addition, tens of thousands of renegade Muslims were on the move

after the Bosnian army re-

took all rebel-held land

around Bihac in northwest-Many refugees were stuck in a region between the Croatian capital of Zagreb and the border with Bosnia, squeezed between the Croatian army to the north and the Bosnian army pushing up from the

About 30,000 refugees were camped out around the U.N. base at Topusko, 55 kilometres south of Zagreb. said U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivanko in Sarajevo.

Further along the refugees' route, columns of cars 50 kilometres long were backed up at the border between Bosnia and Serbia. Aid agencies said the Serb

exodus from Croatia could total 200,000 people. Evidence mounted that some of the refugees were coming under attack.

Kris Kanowski, spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said a group of refugees near Topusko was shelled Tuesday, either by Croat or Bosnian govern-

ment, artillery. Basing his account on reports from UNHCR field vorkers near the shelling, he said an unknown number of people were killed. U.N. spokeswoman Leah Melnick said six shells landed on a stretch of road crowded with refugees in the space of three

minutes. There were also reports of "indiscriminate shooting of refugees' south of Zagreb, said Yasushi Akashi, head of the United Nations for the former Yugoslavia. He could not say how widespread the reports were.

Another U.N. official, Chris Gunness, siad Ukrainian peacekeepers had seen Bosnian soldiers torching houses.

On Monday, Serb officials said Croatian jets attacked a refugee column trying to enter western Bosnia. Witnesses said five people were killed and many more were wounded. The UNHCR in Geneva said it had "Sketchy Reports" of refugees being shelled in the region, but could provide no details. "All this added together is

quite alarming," said Mr. Janowski, referring to the re-

(Continued on page 7)

U.S. starts proceedings against Abu Marzouk on Israeli-filed charges

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The U.S. government began extradition proceedings Tuesday against a political leader of the militant group Hamas, arresting him on Israeli charges he financed and authorised "terrorist" acts in Israel.

A complaint by Israel said Musa Abu Marzouk, who has lived in the United States for 14 years, engaged in conspiracies to commit murder, manslaughter and other crimes in Israel or against

Israeli citizens. Mr. Abu Marzouk appeared briefly Tuesday morning before judge Theodore H. Katz, who told him he had the right to waive his extradition hearing, which would have allowed him to be sent to Israel to face the

charges.
"We decline the gracious offer of the United States government." his lawyer, Stanley Cohen, said with sar-

Mr. Cohen has said his client is not a "terrorist" and is not linked to violence...

A complaint unsealed at the hearing said Mr. Abu Marzouk is the head of the Hamas political bureau, which it said is the "highest ranking leadership body in

the organisation." The complaint added: "This bureau has responsibility for directing and coordinating terrorist acts by Hamas in Israel and the

(occupied) territories."

In addition to its other functions, this bureau has responsibility for directing and coordinating terrorist acts by Hamas in Israel and the territories," the complaint said.

Mr. Abu Marzouk also financed "terrorist" activities against Israeli soldiers and civilians, and helped supervise the military wing of Hamas, appointing people to leadership roles in the military wing, according to the complaint.

Mr. Abu Marzouk was detained at Kennedy International Airport on July 25 because his name was on a U.S. government list of suspected "terrorists." The Immigration and Naturalisation Service has asked he be barred from the United States because he appears to be

involved in "terrorism." A week ago, an Israeli court issued an arrest warrant for the 45-year-old businessman, accusing him of conspiracy to murder, conspiracy to kill, and malicious wound-

Tuesday's hearing likely was just the first step in a process that can last many months, and sometimes years. Mr. Abu Marzouk's next hearing was set for Oct.

Investigators have been examining Mr. Abu Marzouk's financial dealings from recent

(Continued on page 7)

Shetreet: Jews should be allowed to pray at

Haram Al Sharif OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Jews as well as Muslims should be allowed to pray on Jerusalem's Haram Al Sharif, Israeli Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet reportedly said

Tuesday. The comments, which provoked a sharp reaction from the Islamic religious authority, were made in cabinet and came after police prevented Jews from entering the compound on Sunday.

Dozens of Israelis from a radical group called the Tem-ple Mount Faithful tried to force their way in and scuf-

fled with police. "Jews must also be allowed to pray on Temple Mount along with Arabs," a govern-ment official quoted Mr. Shetreet as telling the cabinet, using the Israeli name for the area.

He suggested a system similar to one in force at the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron where an Israeli massacred at least 30 Muslims knelt in prayer in February 1994. The two faiths worship in separate areas and are kept totally

Adnan Husseini, director of the Waqf which manages Haram Al Sharif said: "We warn against the consequences of such declaration which aim only to satisfy settlers and radicals of whom we have already had enough.

(Continued on page 7)

Sheikh Zayed, Assad discuss Arab rifts DAMASCUS (Agencies) Damascus and Cairo as

- The presidents of Syria and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) met here Tuesday in a fresh bid to mend long-standing rifts caused by the 1991 Gulf war and reunite Arab

President Hafez Al Assad greeted Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan at Damascus airport, and the two went directly to the Al Shae'b guest palace for talks.

They were expected to focus on Arab reconciliation and the need for greater cooperation to face emerging regional challenges stemming from the Middle East peace process.

Sheikh Zayed flew from Alexandria, where he had similar talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Monday. Syria and Egypt are sig-

natories to the so-called "Damascus declaration," a defence pact formulated in March 1991 after the Gulf war with the UAE and the other five members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and

Bahrain. The purpose was to form an Arab force to defend the Gulf states if they were again threatened.

But the alliance never got off the ground, because the Gulf states preferred to rely on the United States and other Western powers for their protection.

Sheikh Zayed was expected to conclude a number of agreements with part of the GCC's moves to provide financial aid to its Arab allies.

Egypt and Syria were key Arab components of the U.S.-led coalition formed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

UAE officials said Sheikh Zayed's current tour was aimed at "fortifying Arab solidarity" at a time when Syria is locked in peace negotiations with Israel:

They said, without ela-boration, the UAE wass in a position to play a vital role in that direction.

Mini-summit in Egypt In Alexandria, Sheikh Zayed and President Mubarak held a three-way summit with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to discuss healing Arab rifts and Israeli-Palestinian

The talks focused on 'ways to seal Arab reconciliation and the Israeli-

autonomy talks, officials

Palestinian peace pro-cess," an official said. Mr. Mubarak and Sheikh Zayed also held separate talks on the situation in the Gulf, the Middle East peace process and the region's future, Foreign Minister Amr Musa told reporters.

countries can make to help Bosnian Muslims ' were also studied, an ofti-Sheikh Zayed went on

"Efforts that Islamic

to hold a third meeting with Esmat Abdul Meguid, secretary general of the Arab League, on improving inter-Arab ties.

Israeli accused of spying for

TEL AVIV (AP) -- An Israeli man jailed secretly for three months went on trial Tuesday on charges of spying for Iran.

Iran

Herzl Rad, 31, denied any wrongdoing, his lawyer said. The case only became public Monday after a report in the Arabic-language London weekly Al Wasat, and information about the defendant and the charges remained sketchy (see page 2).

Radio reports said Mr. Rad was born in Iran and had recently lived in the United States, where he ran a clothing business. According to parts of the

charge sheet released Tuesday, Mr. Rad is accused of contact with an enemy agent and espionage, charges that carry penalties of up to 30 years in prison.

He is accused of approaching Iranian agents in Istanbul at an undisclosed date and voluntarily going with them to Iran.

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TEL AVIV (R) — Israel on Tuesday refused official comment on an Arab magazine report it kidnapped an Israeli suspected of spying for a Muslim country but security sources said Israel had the man in solitary confinement.

A! Wasat, an Arabiclanguage weekly based in London, said on Monday that in June Israeli Mossad agents lured Herzl Rad, an Israeli in his 30s, from Austria to Turkey and then spirited him to Israel on a flight of Israel's

state-owned airlines El Al. It said Mr. Rad was suspected of spying against Israel for Libya.

Israeli security sources said Mr. Rad had been charged with spying and contact with a foreign agent but could not confirm he had been kidnapped. They said only that he was suspected of spying for a

"Muslim country."

Israel's army radio quoted security sources saying the country was not Libya. Israel Radio said Mr. Rad's trial would apparently begin on

Tsion Ámir, Mr. Rad's lawyer, told Reuters that a Jerusalem court had placed a gas order on the case and so he could not comment except. to confirm he was the man's

In an inverview with army radio, Mr. amir said he had requested the gas order be lifted. He indicated that parts of the Al Wasat report were exaggerated, saying: "There is a certain fantasy in this story that was published."

A spokesman for the Israeli embassy in Turkey said: "It's a great story, but it's just not true. No such thing happened. This is an attempt to spoil the good relations between Israel and

Turkey."
Israeli Foreign Minister

Shimon Peres, asked by Israeli Radio to comment. said: "This is connected to the justice area and I don't want to say from good to bad or anything on this issue."

Security sources said Mr. Rad as a 31-year-old clothing merchant of Iranian descent who lived in Jerusalem. Israel Radio said he had tried to commit suicide three times in

Israel's Maarive newspaper quoted a woman named Yael Raad, identified only as a relative of Herzl, as insisting he was innocent and adding: "Everything that has been published about Herzl is a complete lie.'

The circumstances described in the Al Wasat version of Mr. Rad's capture hark back to the case of convicted Israeli nuclear spy Mordechai Vanunu and lured by secret service agents from London and Rome and then brought by ship to Israel.

Mr. Vanunu, a former nuclear technician, was convicted of espionage and treason in a secret trial in 1986 and sentenced to 18 years in prison for providing the Sunday Times of London smuggled photographs of Israel's dimona nuclear com-

Mr. Vanunu has been kept in solitary confinement since his capture and conviction. Yossi Melman, an Israeli author of books on spies, told interest aroused in Israel by

the case arose from the secre-

cy maintained by the govern-"If we acted like a normal democratic country in the West where in a spy case the details are released by the protocol of the court....our emotions would be reduced,"

Sudan imposes visa requirement for Arabs

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan. explaining its_decision to require entry visas from Arab travellers, said on Monday its open-door policy had attracted criminals such as the international guerrilla Carlos the Jackal.

Sunday announced that Arab travellers would need to obtain entry visas before Travelling to Sudan, reimposing restrictions lifted five years ago.

Interior Minister Brigadier Al Tayeb Ibrahim Mohammad Khair told state-run Omdurman Radio that the new regulations applied to citizens of all Arab countries except Iraq and Syria and that measures were being taken exempt Libyans also.

He described the move as "a revision but not a retreat" from Khartoum's open-door policy towards Arabs.

"Sudan will remain the land of all Arabs ... the principies that Sudan is the territory for all Arabs still stands," he told the Radio.

Some Arab and Western countries, including neighforming Egypt, charge that Sudan harbours militants plotting to overthrow conservative governments in the

Last month Cairo, which accuses Khartoum of masterminding an attempt to kill President Hosni Mubarak in the Ethiopian capital Addis

Ababa in June, announced that Sudanese citizens should obtain visas before entering

Khartoum denies any role in the assassination attempt. Brig. Khair said some countries which he did not dentify had complained to Khartoum about the unrestricted entry to Sudan and urged it to re-consider the policy.

He said Sudan's policy over the past five years had attracted some criminals although the number of crimes committed by foreigners had declined from 11.000 in 1990 to 4,000 in

He pointed to the arrest of Carlos, whose real name is Illich Ramirez Sanchez, in Khartoum a year ago. The Venezuelan-born guerrilla, wanted by several Western countries for murder, was

handed to France. The minister also mentioned an Arab who took part in an attack at a mosque in Omdurman last year in which 16 people were killed and 20 injured. The man, identified as Abdul Rahman Al Khleifi. was later executed for his role

in the attack. Outside the Arab World. citizens of Ethiopia, Tanzania and the Central African Republic can travel to Sudan without visas as before, according to the Interior



triangle dance to show their support for Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Halaib is a disputed territory between

conflict between the two countries (see page 12)

King Fahd tells cabinet system changes needed

DUBAI (R) — Saudi King Fahd has told the first meeting of his new cabinet that system changes in the kingdom needed to be im-

"We actually want to develop our systems and conduct more studies in this field," King Fahd, who is also prime minister, told the government which was formed on Wednesday, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) re-

The king did not elaborate on the proposed changes but said the main aim was the welfare of the citizen.

In the first major shake up since 1975, King Fahd appointed 15 new ministers to the 28-man cabinet, including 20 holders of postgraduate degrees.

The king is pushing ahead with economic reforms in a bid to balance the 1995 \$40 billion budget which carries a \$4 billion projected deficit. Riyadh, the world's largest

oil exporter, and producer, has been badly hit by weak oil price, recording a \$10.7 billion deficit last year despite cutting the budget by 20 per cent.

Greenpeace warns Italy over Lebanon toxic waste BEIRUT (R) — Greenpeace told the Italian government In an interview published on Monday by Kuwait's Al Seyasseh and its sister

on Tuesday to take back 10,000 barrels of toxic waste it dumped in Lebanon in the 1980s or risk a confrontation with the international environmental watchdog.

"It is our last warning to (the Rome) government to accept Italy's responsibility in the waste scandal," Greenpeace's Malta-based Lebanon campaigner Fouad Hamdan said in an open letter to Carlo Calia, the Italian ambassador in Beirut.

Greenpeace sent a copy of the letter by fax to Reuters in Beirut.

Asked by telephone what the group would do if Rome ignored its warning, Mr. Hamdan said: "You know Greenpeace. We will go to confrontation if diplomacy, which we tried many times, fails. We will no longer be Mr. Nice Guy.

The issue of the barrels. part of a shipment of 16,000 of which 6,000 were sent back to Italy, arose in 1994 when two chemical waste containers were found in the Keserwan mountains north of

by two years last month by Mr. Hamdan said a state-The agency's report, late ment by Italian Underon Monday, gave no details. Secretary for Foreign Trade

Mario D'Urso that Rome will execute all decisions by the Lebanese judiciary investigating the case "was due to diplomatic expedience, not any sincere motivations of

Mr. Calia said earlier this year that Italy had taken back

The Rome government should assume full responsibility for the matter and take the waste back, thus avoiding further hazards to Lebanon and its population." Mr. Hamdan added.

Greenpeace said "the deadly shipment" was exported by Milan-based firm "Jelly Wax" to Lebanon in 1987, at the height of the 1975-90 civil war, and was dumped off the coast of Beirut and in the mountains, where it may contaminate

The two containers found in the mountains were shipped outside Lebanon last month and the waste was Minister Pierre Pharaon has

Beirut port was controlled by the Lebanese forces, the main Christian militia, when the waste was shipped from

Witness identifies British soldiers as Cyprus case assallants

LARNACA, Cyprus (AP) — A Cypriot witness Tuesday identified three British soldiers on trial for the killing of a Danish tour guide as the men who attacked him and 12-13.

"if I had a gun at that moment, I would have shot them all," Michael Vassiliades, 22, told the threejudge court, his voice choking and tears streaming down his face.

In the most dramatic moment of three-week-old trial, Mr. Vassiliades testified how the accused beat up Louise Jensen, 23, before bundling her in their car and driving

Mr. Vassiliades faced Alan Ford, 26, Justin Folwer, 26, and Jeff Parnell, 23, as he gave his lengthy testimony, which was translated simultaneously from Greek to En-

elish. The soldiers bowed their heads and stared at the floor as they sat listening only four

metres from the witness stand. The defendants have pleaded not guilty to charges

of manslaughter, kidnapping and conspiracy to rape Jen-sen, of Hirthals, Denmark, in the beach resort of Ayia Napa, on the night of Sept.'

English-language Arab

"We have succeeded in

dealing with the (financial)

crisis and have had to bear its

consequences, which were

not as harsh as shown by

some international media. I

can say we are in a better

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Bandar promoted

Saudi Arabia's long-serving ambassador to the United States, Prince Bandar

Ben Sultan, has been prom-

oted to ministerial level, SPA

SPA said a royal decree by

King Fahd on Monday con-

ferred the ministerial rank on

the prince, who is the son of

Defence Minister Prince Sul-

Prince Bandar was among

some 90 key officials who had

their terms of duty extended

King Fahd.

measures adopted."

Times, the king said:

The three were serving at Dhekelia, a British military base 25 kilometres east of the Mediterranean resort. Mr. Vassiliades, a student

with a summer job in Ayia Napa, said he was driving Jensen on his motorbike shortly after midnight after filling up at a gas station where the three accused had also stopped with their beach-

Later, when he tried to overtake them on the road into town, the driver of the car swerved to block the motorcycle's path, causing Mr. Vassiliades to lose balance and crash, he testified.

As he tried to remove Jensen's trapped leg from under the motorbike, "I noticed the car had stopped about 20 metres ahead and then it started reversing towards me.

"I thought they were coming to help but the car was coming up so fast... I instinc-

tively realised something was going wrong."

One of the three men in

the car got out and chased Mr. Vassiliades away, threatening him with a shovel, he When he looked back, Mr.

Vassiliades added, "I saw the driver and the co-driver hitting her as she lay on the pavement. I don't know with "The girl was shouting for

help and cursing them. She tried to get away, shouting my name. When the third man joined them, all three picked her up by force without saying anything. They put her in the back of the car on her back and left her legs sticking out of the side.'

"I realised then, as a kind of premotion came over me, that the girl was lost," he

There was a hush in the court as Mr. Vassiliades paused to regain his composure. The chairman of the court asked him to turn and face the bench rather than the accused.

Akilch Maternity, J. Amn.

Mr. Vassiliades said he then hitched a ride into town. found a police patrol car and told them what happened.

Questioned by the state prosecutor, Petros Clerides, Mr. Vassiliades said he knew most people in the resort because he had lived and worked there during the summer holiday.

The attackers, he said. were British servicemen They were foreigners, not Cypriots.'

The defendants were arrested 90 minutes after Mr. Vassiliades reported the attack. Police say they confessed after bloodstains were found on their clothes, on the seats of their car and on a spade found in the vehicle.

"At the police station I recognised them immediately, I expected to see the girl, but she was not there." said. "And when I saw their car full of blood I realised she

was a goner."

Jensen's body was discovered on Sept. 14 buried in a nearby field, naked and bat-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yemen opposition to close ranks

SANAA (R) - Eight Ye neni opposition parties have decided to set up a joint body to coordinate their activities, a statement said on Tuesday. The parties, holding a total of 70 seats in the 301-member parliament, said they decided "to form a higher council of coordination" comprising their secretaries general and two members from each party. One opposition source said the move was "to develop and activate the role of the opposition parties concerning political, social and economic issues." Efforts have been made to revamp the Yemeni political opposition, which was largely marginalised after the end of a two-month civil war in July 1994 between southern separatists and troops loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The eight parties include the Yemen Socialist Party with 65 parliamentary seats. The party ruled the former South Yemen until its merger with the North in May, 1990. Some of its leaders championed the secessionist bid, which was crushed when President Saleh's forces captured Aden, capital of the separatist state, on July 7, 1994. Yemen is ruled by a coalition government of Mr. Saleh's General People's Congress and the Islamist Islah party of Parliamentary. Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar.

Knesset member Kaufman dead at 60

TEL AVIV (AP) — Right-wing lawyer Haim Kaufman who rose from militia member to transport minister, died of an undisclosed illness Monday. He was 60. Kaufman, a member of the opposition Likud Party. was first elected to parliament in 1977. He served as transport minister, deputy knesset speaker, deputy finance minister and coalition chairman under former Premier Yitzhak Shamir. As a youth, Kaufman was involved in Menachem Begin's Irgun underground. Likud member Yossi Ahimeir, a former Shamir spokesman will replace Kaufman in the legislature. Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu remembered Kaufman as "a loyal friend and a loyal Israeli. We will miss him very much." Kaufman is survived by a wife and three children. A private funeral was to be held for him in Petah Tikva on

3 die in attack on Somalia convoy

NAIROBI (AFP) — Three people died in the southern. Somali port city of Kismayo as a U.N. World Food. Programme (WFP) convoy moved out of a warehouse and then came under attack, WFP spokeswoman Brenda: Barton said in Nairobi Tuesday. She said shots Monday, were first fired in the air to disperse bystanders apparently by police - and that one person was killed by a stray bullet. About 20 minutes later the three trucks ran into an ambush and crashed, killing two bystanders, she said. The gunmen fled. The trucks nevertheless managed to deliver 60 tonnes of food to Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF - Doctors Without Borders) and feeding centres. The food had been held up in the WFP warehouse for a week-and-a-half following looting of supplies and extortion, Barton said. Another 80 tonnes were due to be distributed Tuesday. Agencies are increasing food distribution in many regions of Somalia following reports of widespread starvation, caused by a combination of flooding, drought and poverty in the lawless Horn of Africa nation, which has been without a government since the overthrow of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in January 1991. The police in Kismayo are remnants of a force set up by the United Nations before U.N. troops pulled out of Somalia in March after two-and-a-half year.

Turkish workers hold mass protest, strikes

ANKARA (AFP) - Almost 600,000 public sector workers were taking part in strikes or slowdowns on Tuesday, in a 24-hour action aimed at winning wider trade union rights and unbiocking wage negotiations, union sources said here.

An official of Turk-Is, the country's biggest union federation with 2.7 million members, said workers had been asked to be present at their workplaces, but to either slow own or stop work altogether. The action, also supported by the smaller Hak-Is and DISK federations, was due to end early on Wednesday. The official, Yildirim Koc, said the action was aimed at winning union rights for public sector employees, and at unblocking collective bargaining talks affecting some 680,000 workers. Turkish civil servants are forbidden by the constitution from joining a trade union. A resolution aimed at rescinding the ban was thrown out by parliament at the end of last month. The government has offered only a four per cent wage rise, although inflation in Turkey is running at over 80 per cent annually. "We demand an increase which allows us to protect our living standards," Mr. Koc said. The industrial action follows a Turk-Is demonstration attended by between 60,000 and 100,000 workers in Ankara on Saturday.

Graduates knock out Cairo's phone network

CAIRO (AFP) - Hundreds of thousands of high school graduates knocked out all the lines in Cairo's telephone network on Tuesday, as they rushed to announce to friends and relatives their success in year-end exams. The telephone breakdown was the largest since an October 1992 earthquake that killed 500 people in the Egyptian capital, experts said. "The lines were swamped because of the announcement of the year-end exam results," and engineer with the state telephone company told AFP. Twice the usual number of students took the exam this year due to a reform in the number of school years - 410,000, of whom 74.5 per cent passed, Education Minister Hussein Kamel Bahaeddin said Tuesday. The final exam, which determines what university faculty a student may enter, is notorious for the stress it lays on students and parents. Many parents jostle to get an advance peek at the results by exploiting contacts at the ministry committee which grades exams from all 26 Egyptian provinces before releasing them to the schools to announce.

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Blue Skies (Part III)

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CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church of God Church, Tcl.

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Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
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Complaints 787111
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(directory assistance) 121
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Central Amman Telephone
Repairs
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Electric Power
Company 636381
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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR Khalidi Maternity. J. Amn

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(09)900560	18:55 Toronto, Montre
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732	19:10 Frankfugt, Vienn
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QUEEN ALIA

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER INTERNATIONAL **AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Oueen Alia In-ternational Airport Tel. (IR)53200-5, where it should always be veri-

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09:30	Jeddah (RI)
00-55	Lamaca (RJ)
10-10	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10.50	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
10:26	Madrid (RJ)
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18:45	Brussels. Geneva (RJ)
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ther Flights (1	erminal 2)
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Visiting Islamic leader says peace treaty

put end to 'Jordan is Palestine' claim

BRIEF Premier lays office foundation stone in Balqa

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SALT (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday laid the foundation stone for a fourstorey building in Salt that will become the offices of the Balqa governor and administrative staff.

According to George Kildani, acting director of the Public Works Department in Balqa, the 4,282-square-metre complex will be set up on a 7,500-square-metre plot. The Ministry of Public Works is responsible for the completion of the structure in 400 days, Mr. Kildani, an engineer, said.

He said at a briefing.

AMMAN - The Nippon Jordan Fertiliser Company (NJFC) is to receive a dual currency syndicated loan totalling \$24 million to help finance the construction of a compound fertilisers plant near the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) industrial complex in Aqaba in accordance with an agreement signed in Amman

The loan provided by four

According to the NJFC the



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday lays the foundation stone for the new Balqa Governorate complex which will make available 4,282 square metres of office space for the governor and staff (Petra photo)

attended by Sharif Zeid and other officials, that the pro826,622, should be ready for occupancy by September

He said that the complex will also include a large car

\$24m loan to finance construction of fertilisers plant

By Khaled Zubeidi Special to the Jordan Times

Jordanian banks and the Social Security Corporation (SSC) will be in the form of \$12.2 million and JD 8.12 million, and has been guaranteed by the JPMC and the Arab Potash Company (APC) to be repaid over a nine-year period.

project, which will cost a total of \$84 million, will be. . cal Corporation (10 per cent ' completed in 27 months and

will become productive early in 1997.

The loan has been arranged and managed by the Arab Bank and Citibank. The Housing Bank, the Jordan Investment and Finance Bank as well as the SSC have participated in the loan, according to a statement following the signing ceremony held at the Arab Bank's headoffice .

The statement noted that the plant is expected to produce 300,000 tonnes of compound fertilisers annually, most of which will be marketed in Japan adding that the project will be set up on 55 dunums of land.

The JPMC and the APC each hold 20 per cent equity in the project, and four Japanese firms hold the rest. They are :ZEN-NOH (30 per cent) Mitsubishi Chemi-), Asahino Company (10 per

cent, and Mitsubishi Corporporation (10 per cent).

The plant is to be built jointly by French and Japanese companies at the cost of \$62 million, the statement

It said it will produce five types of compound fertilisers employing inputs provided by the JPMC and the APC for \$30 million annual-

The plant, which the NJFC says will employ 155 workers, is expected to earn \$30 million from its sales in the first year rising to \$60 million annually in the following two years. Arranging a loan of this

size for a project, especially in foreign currency in addition to local currency, confirms the existence of significant opportunities to provide financing for viable projects particularly those erected, in order to enhance

exports, the statement said. It added that the indespensibility of such a loan stems from the fact that it is one of the few dual currency loans that have been extended to the private sector without

Jordanian government guar-

Rather, the statement said, it has been extended due to the viability of the project, a fact which will undoubtedly create new opportunities to further financing other viable projects, the state-

ment added.

Present at the signing cere-mony were Minister of Finance Basel Jardaneh, Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb, Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi, the chairmen and general managers of the JPMC and the APC and the participating banks, and representatives of the borrower.

Jardaneh, Yemeni minister review Jordan's economic restructuring programme

AMMAN (J.T.) — The leader of the Islamic movement in Israel, Sheikh

Abdullah Nimer Issa Dar-

wish, Tuesday met in

Amman with Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdul Karim Kabariti and later told

Jordan Television that the

treaty had laid to rest claims

from Israeli extreme right-

ists that Jordan is the substi-

tute homeland for the Pales-

The Likud Party, which

could eventually assume power in Israel, advocates

the 'Jordan is Palestine' theory, but with the peace

treaty in force it is clear that

the idea is entirely unfeasi-

The process can only suc-

ceed when Israel recognises

the full rights of the Pales-

tinian people, including

Arab Jerusalem with all its

Christian and Muslim shripes, Sheikh Darwish

The key to peace or war in

the region is Jerusalem, and

Israel has to respect and

return the Arab rights to Jerusalem and comply with

United Nations resolutions

and implement its agree-

ments with the Arabs in

order to establish peace, he

AMMAN (Petra) — Yemeni

Deputy Prime Minister and

Minister of Development

and Planning Abdul Qader

Bajamal met Tuesday with

Finance Minister Basel Jar-

Jordanian economic restruc-

turing programme agreed

upon with the International

Monetary Fund (IMF) and

the outcome of its imple-

Mr. Jardaneh briefed the

mentation in the Kingdom.

ble, said Sheikh Darwish.

Jordanian-Israeli

eign countries. At the meeting the two sides reviewed prospects for Yemeni-Jordanian cooperadaneh for a briefing on the tion in financial affairs. Mr. Jardaneh expressed his

endeavours to reduce or

reschedule its debts to for-

Jordan Television quoted

Sheikh Darwish as saying

that the Islamic movement

in Israel appreciates Jordan's

democratic system and its

political pluralism, and

ministry's willingness to provide Yemen with the related expertise.

Earlier Tuesday the Yemeni minister and his delegation met with senior officials at the Ministry of Yemeni official on Jordan's Planning and were briefed ments.

by the director of projects, Zaidoun Rashdan, on the ministry's internal administration system and the process of planning for different government sectors as well as Jordan's management of grants and loans

from foreign countries and

'government depart-

Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdul Karim Kabariti Tuesday meets with Sheikh Abdullah

the successive governments

in Jordan and the Islamic

movement in the country

were strong and served as a

basis for stability and pros-

perity in the Kingdom as

well as an example to other

added that relations between Arab states.

Nimer Issa Darwish, who is visiting Jordan from Israel (Petra photo)

organisations. The Yemenis were briefed on the planning of economic projects undertaken by sev-



During the meeting with Mr. Kabariti, Sheikh Dar-

wish discussed several

issues of common concern

to Jordan and the Israeli

Basel Jardaneh

House condemns Israeli decision on Al Aqsa

Amman (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Tuesday condemned an Israeli court decision allowing the Jewish Temple Mount Faithful group to enter Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and perform their

In a statement issued Tuesday the House said the repeated attempts by the group to enter the mosque coincide with the attempts made by Israeli settlers and extremists to encroach upon the sanctity of holy places elsewhere in the occupied Arab territories.

The statement said such Israeli attempts are a blow to the peace process in the region, particularly on the Palestinian-Israeli track, and reflect the resolve of the Israeli authorities to pursue attempts at expansion and hegemony.

While the House expresses its anger over and condemnation of the Israeli court's decision, it calls on all countries concerned with the Middle East peace process and all international bodies and organisations to shoulder their full responsibilities in putting an end to the repeated Israeli attempts and to pressure Israel into

accepting the United Nations resolutions on the holy places in the occupied Arab territories, particularly Jerusalem." The House also called on

the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) members to urge their governments to make every possible effort to press upon Israel to repeal the court decision in order not to undermine the foundations of a just and comprehensive peace.

Also Tuesday the Royal Commission on Jerusalem Affairs strongly denounced the Israeli court's decision, declaring it illegal because it was issued by a body that has no right whatsoever to pass any ruling or decisionon the Arab city of Jerusalem which has been occupied since 1967.

In a statement issued Tuesday, the commission said the decision contravenes all international resolutions and the essence and provisions of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel.

It said the decision constitutes a dangerous sign which will have negative effects on the Middle East peace

The statement said the Israeli government and all Israeli organisations are asked to put an end to the judaisation of the holy places in Jerusalem. The Commission called on

all Arab and Muslim leaders to unify their ranks and stand firmly in the face of any attempts to confiscate the Arab and Islamic rights in the Arab city of Jerusalem and the holy Islamic and Christian places in the occupied territories.

On Monday an Islamic-

a statement condemning the Israeli court's decision and called for its reversal, saying that it has no legal basis.

The statement, which followed an extraordinary meeting of that committee chaired by Senator Kamel Sharif, lauded the Jordanian government's position and praised the efforts made by the Aqsa Mosque guards and the residents of Jerusalem to prevent the Jewish group from entering the place of Muslim worship.

The committee said the decision reflects the Israeli authorities' indifference for the feelings of Muslims and Christians, and constitutes a flagrant violation of interna-

tional law. "The Israeli court's decision leads to more tension and clashes, and sparks feelings of enmity between Arabs and Jews", the statement said.

The committee includes Muslim and Christian schol-Christian Committee issued ars and religious leaders.

20 JBA representatives prepare for trade, industry talks with Turkish counterparts

eral

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Businessmen's Assocation (JBA) said Tuesday that it has started preparations for a second meeting of the Jordan-Turkey Business Council next month in Istan-

At least 20 Jordanian businessmen representing various economic sectors in the Kingdom are expected to take part in the four-day meeting starting on September 20, according to JBA Chairman Hamdi Tabba'a, who will lead the Jordanian team to the meeting.

Mr. Tabba'a, who will deliver the key address at the

NEWS

BRIEF

President Ong Teng

Cheong of Singapore, con-

gratulating him in his own

name and on behalf of the

Jordanian people and gov-

emment on his country's

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wished President Cheong

continued good health and

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of Singapore further

progress and prosperity. On Aug. 9, 1965, Singa-

pore won its independence

from Malaysia. Also Tues-

day the King sent a con-

gratulatory cable to King

Albert of Belgium, con-

gratulating him on the

anniversary of his acces-

sion to the throne.

opening of the meeting, said that the council is expected to review a programme of trade and industrial cooperation between Turkey and Jordan and explore the prospects of mutual cooperation at the regional as well as the bilateral level.

The JBA team is also preparing ideas and proposals to be submitted to next month's meeting dealing with Jordanian-Turkish ventures in food processing industries, contracting, communications and tourism, added Mr. Tabba'a.

The Jordanian businessmen will tour industrial centres and factories and will hold separate trade and industry talks with their Turkish counterparts.

According to a JBA statement, the council, which groups members of the IBA and the Turkish Foreign Economic Relations Council, was established last year and held its first meeting in Amman last October with the attendance of more than 70 Turkish businessmen.

Since the beginning of 1995, the JBA has hosted several Turkish business delegations for discussions on trade and joint ventures. the statement added.



Hamdi Tabba'a

WHAT'S GOING ON

FUHEIS FESTIVAL

Concert by Elias Karam at the Main Theatre at 9:00

Seminar on the 100th anniversary of the cinema with the participation of Haitham Haqqi of Syria and critic Adnan Mdanat at the residence of late Khalid Mnaizil

Several exhibitions on Jordan's tourism sector, Karak, late Jordanian Prime Minister Wasfi Tal, Al Ra'i's 25th anniversary, Germany's struggle against fascism, Orthodox churches, abstract art, and children's art.

LECTURE

(in Arabic) "The Status of the Islamic Movement and Arab Parties, and Their Role in the Upcoming Israeli Elections" by Sheikh Abdullah Darwish of Palestine at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Painting by "Pioneers of the Fifties" Isma'il and Suzanne Al Sheikhly, Khalid Qassab, and Dr. Nuri Bejet at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utheina.

* Paintings by Aneta Traikova at Alia Art Gallery.

* "Exhibition of Chinese Products '95," at Al Bassam Hall, King Abdullah Gardens.

* Handicrafts and souvenirs at Amman Citadel (9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

* Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century, French Cultural Centre.

Airport modernisation project to focus on Aqaba — Jweiber

AMMAN (Petra) --- As part of the Civil Aviation Author-King ity (CAA) project to modcongratulates emise the country's airports and facilities the CAA is Singapore, paying particular attention to Agaba airport as it will be King Albert converted into a full service international airport, accord-Amman (Petra)-- His ing to CAA Director Gener-Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to al Ahmad Jweiber Tuesday.

Of the JD 60 million allocated for the airport modernisation programme, the CAA plans to spend JD 27 million on the Aqaba airport so that it can accommodate a significantly larger air transport operation, Mr. Jweiber said. He added that the authority is currently studying bids submitted by several international firms to conduct the conversion at

Agaba. He said that the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has pledged to finance the Agaba phase of the airports upgrading project.

In the meantime, said Mr. Iweiber, the a local firm is constructing new airplane systems for a cost of JD



Ahmad Jweiber

hangars at a cost of JD 500,000, and housing units for CAA employees are being built which will cost the CAA JD 140,000.

The CAA's annual JD 2 million budget is spent on maintenance at various airport facilities in Jordan, Mr. Jweiber said,

At Queen Alia International Airport, Mr Jweiber said, teams are upgrading passenger zones and improving sanitation facilities at a cost of JD160,000, information

500,000, and the airconditioning system for JD

At the moment he added the CAA is supervising the asphalting, by a local firm, of the northern runway. The cost of that alone is JD 1.22 million. Improving the meteorology system, a project being conducted by a French company, will cost JD 500 000.

Mr. Jweiber said the plan includes using the Marka Civil Airport in Amman for domestic and short-range flights. The CAA, he said, has allocated JD 7 million to modernise that airport 's facilities.

Since the opening of QAIA. the Marka facility has been used mainly by Arab Wings, the Civil Aviation Academy and the Royal Falcons as well as the Gliding Club.

The Marka airport will be used this October to receive participants to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference

He said he expects the full modernisation project to be completed by the end of 1998.

Murayama reshuffles cabinet; key posts remain unchanged

TOKYO (Agencies) - Prime struggling to pull out of a Minister Tomiichi Murayama reshuffled his cabinet Tuesday, retaining his key foreign, finance and trade ministers but naming an influential private researcher as his economic planning chief.

The reshuffle ended five days of haggling over whether Mr. Murayama's key allies - Yohei Kono of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Sakigake Party head Masayoshi Takemura - should stay on as foreign and finance ministers respec-

In the end, Mr. Murayama successfully persuaded the two to keep their posts. enabling the embattled Socialist prime minister to preserve a delicate balance in his three-party coalition. Trade Minister Ryutaro

Hashimoto, who successfully resolved a heated car dispute with the United States, also kept his job. The reshuffle - Mr.

Murayama's first — involved most government ministries but, with the key players still in place, fell far short of a fundamental revamp of the 13-month-old government in the wake of the coalition's poor performance in upper house elections last month.

Mr. Murayama's only surprise appointment was new Economic Planning Agency Minister Isamu Miyazaki, a private researcher at the Daiwa Institute of Research. He is the only non-

politician in the new line-up. Mr. Miyazaki's appointment was apparently part of Mr. Murayama's efforts to show his government was serious about propping up the sagging economy, which is

prolonged recession.

"The new cabinet will take the issue of economic recovery seriously, and stress the importance of reforms." new Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka said after announcing the new line-up.

Nosaka said the cabinet reshuffle was necessary because the outgoing cabinet had already been in place for the usual length of time Japanese ministers stay in

Mr. Nosaka, Mr. Murayama's right-hand man in the Socialist Party and the outgoing construction minister, also takes on the role of top government spokesman. LDP Secretary-General Yoshiro Mori got the job of new construction minister:

Mr. Murayama preserved the basic framework of his 20-member cabinet - 13 posts for the LDP, five for the Socialists and two for Sakigake.

Economic Planning Agen-cy chief Miyazaki counted as post for Sakigake because the party recommended him. The widely anticipated lack of major changes — despite the cabinet taking as its slogan "fresh and new" drew

media criticism. "The new cabinet is not at all like what's written on its door sign - fresh and new," said the daily Mainichi Shimbun. "The process just exposed party politicking and in-ternal feuds."

The average age of the cabinet members was 62, considerably higher than the previous cabinet. Mr. Murayama did not name a single woman to his new

The only woman minister coalition. in the outgoing cabinet was Makiko Tanaka, the outspoken science and technology minister and daughter of the late ex-Premier Kakuei

Tanaka. Party officials are pessimistic about the future of Mr. Murayama's fractious ruling coalition after the reshuffle which opened up new divi-

Though Mr. Murayama assured the changes would go smoothly many observers predicted the reshuffle would hasten the end of the rule by the 72-year-old Socialist. dogged by attacks on his handling of the economy and the government's slow reaction to major events such as the Kobe earthquake.

There is no fear of a split in the three parties," Mr. Murayama told reporters after reaching an agreement with fellow party leaders over changes to the increasingly unpopular cabinet.

The reshuffle took much negotiating, with Mr. Kono hoping to leave his ministry to concentrate on securing his reelection as LDP party leader in elections next month. I believe Mr. Kono even-

tually understood my firm stance," said Mr. Murayama. who is seeking to revive the government after his party's setback in elections to the upper house of parliament last month.

Some coalition members have made it clear they do not share Mr. Murayama's optimism. "We are not sure whether we can continue the close relations which we have maintained so far," said a since the coalition was senior official of the ruling, formed in June last year.

"The debates over the cabinet reshuffle merely caused further damage to the fragile coalition," said the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said. This appears to show the ruling parties moving towards the end of the Murayama administration.

The Yomiuri Shimbun said a power struggle among the parties may intensify ahead of the LDP election, with Mr. Kono still poised to concentrate more on the possible leadership challenge from the popular International Trade and Industry Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

According to recent opinion polls, many voters want Mr. Hashimoto to succeed Mr. Murayama.

"Although the three parties avoided a decisive split by reaching an agreement overnight, the debates showed a sign of further uncertainty of the govern-ment," Yomiuri Shimbun

Even Mr. Murayama predicted a hard time ahead. "I feel blue and gloomy," he told his aides following talks with Mr. Kono and Mr. Takemura.

The Asahi Shimbun said Mr. Murayama would inevitably lose the prime minister's post once the LDP stopped focussing on party affairs.

Public support for Mr. Murayama's cabinet fell from 38.8 per cent in June to 34.5 per cent in August while the disapproval rate jumped to 43.6 per cent, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said. It was the largest disapproval rating Hutus



colleagues during violent clashes with striking construction workers in Panama City, Pana-

dropped by a demonstrator from the 18th floor of a building under construction (AFP photo)

27 injured in Panama riots

PANAMA CITY (AFP) -Twelve police and 15 civilians were injured in riots Monday as construction workers and student sympathisers angered by possible government labour law changes battled with authorities.

Police detained 116 people during the clashes that rocked the capital and the northwestern city of Colon. officials said.

Seven police officers were injured in the capital, three of them with burns suffered after student activists near the University of Panama tossed an incendiary device at a police vehicles, a police spokesman said.

One of the injured officers was in a coma after being hit with a cement block hurled from a rooftop, police said. In Colon, some 70 kilometres northwest of here. five police and 15 civilians were wounded in confrontations.

At least 30 people were arrested in the capital and another 17 in Colon.

The wave of violence caused Venezuelan Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelto postone his scheduled arrival here Monday until later in the month.

The unrest followed clashes Friday in which four civilians were killed and several police officers were injured by rock-throwing demonstrators.

Hundreds of union members were arrested in Friday's melee after some 7,000 construction workers went on strike over the legislation under consideration in the assembly which they say would leave them defenceless in disagreements with employers. They said they have the

backing of 49 unions with some 70,000 members in the banana-growing and construction industries and small husinesses.

The workers and students Monday had set up barri-cades on several small streets and four major downtown avenues before clashing with authorities. Local radio reports said students hurled incendiary devices at an advancing police flank but there were no reports of injuries in such an incident.

The government shut down primary and secondary schools amid security concerns, but business as usual was under way in the capital's financial district and govern-

years after she files TEHRAN (AFP) - An Iranian woman who filed for divorce 14 years ago to

escape her husband's beat

Iranian woman gets divoce 14

ings finally got her wish this week because of reforms to the country's penal code. The young woman, who was not dentified, filed for divorce in 1981, accusing her husband of incessantly beating her to force her into obedience, the Iran daily said, citing chief prosecutor Ayatollah Morteza Moghtadai, Moghtadai told the daily that the woman. has been under "torture" from her husband, which caused her "mental and physical suffering." In a bid; to obtain her husband's consent for divorce, a legal requirement in Iran, she pledged before a court in the religious city of Qom, in central Iran, to forsake all the rights she was entitled to from the marriage. However, the woman's revengeful hus-band demanded a hefty sumfrom her before he would, agree to a divorce, which she could not afford, causing more delay in the case. It was, not before a thorough reform was applied to the country's judiciary system two months. ago and the intervention of the Supreme Court that the divorce was granted, Moghtadai said. He said a verdict had been issued in her favour forcing the husband to pay, alimony as well as punitive, damages for all the years the couple lived together. Under Iranian law, a woman could demand money, assessed by the court, from her husband, in reparation for the work she had done at home while being married.

Judge jails 'bottoms up' artist

just a fortnight after squirting him with green paint. Annarita Muraglia, 24, "mooned" at Judge Andrew Brooks while appearing at an East London court to be sent-enced for contempt of court over the paint attack two weeks ago. When the judge subsequently jailed her for 15 months she shouted: "So you _ don't want to see my bottom again, Wiggy!" Italian-born Muraglia made her move as the judge asked her lawyer Menon Rajiv if she had seen a prison psychiatrist since the paint attack on July 24. Shouting "I don't want to see : a doctor," Muraglia spun round and raised her red floral showing her buttocks, : across which a message was : written, before any of the six dock officers could stop her. Muraglia, of Islington, North ... London, then screamed: Don't touch me you perverts." As she was removed from the dock, the judge asked if anyone had seen what was written on her buttocks, but no-one had spotted the message. Rajiv told the court that in December last .. year his client had been jailed :: for six months after flashing. her bottom, bearing the message "Merry Christmas," at a High Court judge. Sentence ing Muraglia, Judge Brooks recalled she had launched the paint attacks after turning up : late for a preliminary hearing. She was restrained by court officials and the judgen adjourned the case to allow: her to purge her contempt. -You have totally failed to avail yourself of the oppor tunity I gave." he told her. You have shown no remorse .

Housewives of

wbatsoever."

BUENOS AIRES (R) The Argentine capital will host the first world congress of housewives on Oct. 26-29 with the aim of joining forces. to fight for quality, fair prices, and advertising that does not exploit women, according to: its organisers. Argentina's. Housewives' League saider Sunday it had received ? acceptances from organisa-43 tions in Italy, Spain, Portugant al, Germany, Russia, Poland, Dominican Republic, Mex-11 ico, Brazi, Uruguay, Paraguay, Peru, India and South; Africa. Lita De Lazzari, head, of the Argentine League, 5 told the Argentina News;" Agency (Telam) the congress w would call for "respect forg." our right to healthy products x 1 and fair prices, and honester and fair advertising that does not use women as a sex ob-rid.

At least 33 killed in Colombia rebel attacks attacks which broke out Sun-

BOGOTA (AFP) — At least 33 people were dead and more than 20 wounded in rebel attacks around the nation marking the first anniversary of President Ernesto Samper taking office. officials said Monday. The dead included 14

police personnel, six soldiers and 13 guerrillas, according

The rebel's objective in the

day was to mark Samper's first year in office and press for peace talks, said army General Camilo Zuniga.

The heaviest fighting came in the town of Miraflores in the southeastern department of Guaviare where some 200 to

rebels from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) attacked Sun-

Ten police personnel and 13 rebels were killed and another 16 members of the police force were injured, authorities said Monday. The attacks were also in

retaliation for the destruction drug-crops being grown-on-ver, an shousand Hectares .000 acres), the deputy director, of the national police. General Luis Enrique Montenegro said.

The FARC is estimated to have some 7.000 members, operates throughout the country. Officially formed as a Marxist, pro-Soviet group in 1964, it is known for kidnapping operations and protecting rural drug farms and laboratories.

Negotiations between the government and Colombian rebel groups currently are

Argentine ex-admiral dismisses dirty war 'fantasies'

BUENOS AIRES (R) - Ex-Admiral Emilio Massera. most infamous of Argentina's military rulers during the "dirty war" on leftists in the late 1970s, insisted that the human rights crimes he was convincted of were pure

"It didn't happen. If there were any cases you would have to prove it and it has not been proved. It's all fantasaid Adm. Massera. who was navy chief during the 1976 military coup and a member of the three-man ruling junta for two of the bloodiest vears of its campaign against leftist guerril-

Adm. Massera, now 69. was appearing on television for the first time since he was sentenced to life in prison 10 years ago on 83 charges of murder and hundreds more of kidnap, torture, robbery

and extortion. Little aged since then, and easily recognisable with his bushy eyebrows and thin lips. Adm. Massera has avoided the hostile public eve since he and his junta colleagues were pardoned by President Carlos Menem five years ago.

But he broke his silence last week to criticise army chief General Martin Balza for apologising for the 'dirty war" in which some 4.000 were killed and at least 10,000 "disappeared." tortured and "disposed of" by security forces.

ogy followed a spate of confessions by former torturers. including tales of "death flights" where detainees in the Navy Michanical School (ESMA). Buenos Aires' most dreaded clandestine torture centre, were thrown to

their deaths from secret

flights over the Atlantic and River Plate. "But what exactly happened in the ESMA?" Adm. Massera asked his Argentine television interviewers. adding that he had never given or obeyed "immoral

In defence statements at his trial, Adm. Massera said

Clinton would consider letting government shut down

saying it had been a "just Gen. Balza's historic apol-

The ex-admiral, smiling nervously and using papers and news cuttings to illustrate his points during the twohour interview, acknowledged "there were errors and also excesses I : suppose. for which I have taken responsibility.

But he dismissed the idea of premeditated repression as idiculous" and denied outright that torture or murder were used against leftist guerrillas.

"You are presuming there was torture and I am presuming there was no torture." he said. "But why do you say 'kill'? Where's the proof?" he asked at another point.

he was responsible but not guilty for what happened.

WASHINGTON (R) - U.S. President Bill Clinton declared he would consider letting the federal government shut down for a few days rather than giving in to what he considers extreme budget cuts proposed by Republi-

In an interview with National Public Radio, Democrat Clinton said he would not approve drastic budget cuts affecting millions of Americans just to get an agreement with the Republican majority Congress before the new fiscal year starts on Oct. 1.

No deal between the White House and Capitol Hill could mean there's temporarily no money for the government to. continue operations, effectively shutting it down — a scenario referred to in Washington as a "train wreck.

· "If you ask he am I going to blink at the end to avoid shutting down the government, the answer is no," Mr. Clinton told NPR in excerpts broadcast by the network.

"I will not be blackmailed into selling the American people's future down the drain to avoid a train wreck," said the president.

Better a train wreck for a day ro two or three or four. better political damage to Bill Clinton than damaging the future of millions and millions and millions of Americans.

Mr. Clinton said ultimately any shutdown would be Congress' fault, "They will have to vote or not vote to lift the debt ceiling," he said. "They will have to vote or not vote for a continuing resolution to let this government go on. "I will have no role in

Mr. Clinton has threatened to veto several of the appropriations bills as they have passed the House of Representatives, including measures fo slash or kill dozens of government labour, health and education programmes and gut enforcement of environmental protection laws.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich said earlier the Republicans were willing to use the debt ceiling to force Mr. Clinton to accept udget cuts. The ceiling of \$4.9 trillion is expected to be reached in October, forcing the federal government to shut down unless Congress votes a higher

In a separate development. Senate Whitewater investigators were told that President Clinton was grief-stricken about the death of his boyhood friend Vincent Foster but was not told on the day Foster's suicide note was found.

When he was told a day later, Mr. Clinton immediately ordered the notebe given to investigators, the senators were told.

Separately, former federal investigators told a House Banking Committee hearing neither Mr. Clinton nor Hillary Rodham Clinton was connected to the failed Madison Guaranty Thrift or involved in any illegal activities.

The investigators, including former Federal Home Loan Bank Board officials. testified that their examination of Madison Guaranty -the now-failed savings institution owned by the Clintons' former partner in the Whitewater land deal turned up no mention of

Whitewater or the Clintons. The House hearing opened with fierce partisan attacks as Republican charged that the Clintons were part of an "Arkansas mafia" that benefitted from a financial institution linked to their

Whitewater land deal. The Republican-controlled Senate committee received minute details about comings and goings in the White House and Mr. Clinton's state of mind when he was told of the death of Foster, who was deputy White House counsel.

Ex-presidential counsellor David Gergen described Mr. Clinton as "grief-stricken" Foster's death when told on July 20, 1993. But presidential counsellor and former White House Chief of Staff Thomas "Mack" McLarty said that, despite their closeness, when Foster's torn-up note was found six days after his death he did

not tell Mr. Clinton about it. Mr. McLarty, who grew up with Foster and Mr. Clinton, said it was not a typical suicide note and he was perplexed by it. Otherwise, he gave no reason for not telling Mr. Clinton.

"I was perplexed by it and I made the decision not to tell the president," Mr. McLarty said. "It did not seem to me a matter that should be brought to his attention that night until we could review the matter.' Mr. Clinton was told the

next day and he agreed to a plan to tell police and then ordered the note turned over to Justice Department and other investigators," Mr. McLarty said.

"I was not meant for the job or the spotlight of public life in Washington," Foster wrote in the undated handwritten note that was found in the bottom of his briefcase. "Here ruining people is considered sport.

Foster was a law partner with Hillary Rodham Clinton in Little Rock and in the White House he kept the Clintons' personal files, tax records and Whitewater investment papers.

The Senate panel is investigating whether any documents in Foster's office, including those concerning the Whitewater deal, were concealed from investigators of Foster's death.

town as wildfire nears slaughter juries as a small army of CABAZON, California (R) 58 Tutsis people battle the blaze, - About 2,000 firefighters

in Burundi BUJUMBURA (AFP) - A 100-strong Hutu commando used machetes and knives to slaughter 58 displaced Tutsis -25 of them children --21.000 acres (8.400 hectares) Burundian police said:Tuesday as fears grew of reprisal

killings and a descent into massive ethnic bloodletting. The police said the attackers Monday used machetes and knives rather than guns at the Kaburantwa displaced persons camp in northwestern Cibitoke province to avoid alerting nearby soldiers

of the Tutsi-dominated army. The assailants killed 18 women and 15 men as well as the children, then fled over the nearby border into Zaire. the police said.

The army accuses Burundian Hutu extremists of cooperating in Zaire with Rwandun Hutus in refugee camps. Some of the Rwandan Hutus were members of the Interahamwe militias which carried out the worst massacres during Rwanda's civil war last year, when more than half-a-million Tutsis, moderate Hutus and their families were slaughtered.

The Rwandans in the camps were reported to be rearming, training, and carrving out cross-border guer-

The Kaburantwa camp is one of a number in Burundi which house displaced survivors of ethnic killing in which tens of thousands died following the assassination of Melchior Ndadayo, Burundi's first Hutu president, in October 1993, in a failed coup.

On April 6 last year. Burundi's new Hutu president. Cyprien Ntaryamira, was killed when the plane in which he was travelling with Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana, also a Hutu, was shot down over Kigali by unidentified assailants. That attack triggered the

civil war in Rwanda, which then had the same ethnic mix as Burundi - 85 per cent Hutu and 14 per cent Tutsi. Burundi's current president, Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, is also a Hutu, but the Tutsis hold the levers of pow-

er. especially in the security

forces and the judiciary. The massacre Monday brings down the curtain on a period of uneasy calm in this tiny central African nation which followed a visit in mid-July by U.N. secretary General Boutros Ghali, who appealed for reconciliation. Before his visit, ethnic kill

to 40 a week. Virtually none of the killers are ever arrested or punished.

ings were estimated to be

taking place at the rate of 20

Locals ready to flee U.S.

are trying to contain a raging wildfire as residents of a threatened southern California town prepare to evacuate on a moment's notice, officials said Monday. The fire, which started

accidentally last Friday, has

already charred more than

of rugged terrain north of

Palm Springs, according to the California Department of Forestry (CDF). Nine firefighters have already suffered minor inequipped with 100 fire engines. 10 helicopters and eight air tankers used to drop fire retardant. Becky Luther. a CDF spokeswoman, said. The fire, which is about 50

per cent contained, has burned in sparsely inhabited. areas until now and has destroved only a few buildings. and several vehicles, officials: said. But winds were driving it towards the small town of Morongo Valley and it was only about three miles (five kilometres) away.



PERFECTLY HAPPY COUPLE: A picture of the Duke and Duchess of York locked in an affectionate kiss was Tuesday splashed over the British tabloid press, which suggested it was the embrace of a "perfectly happy couple. The moment that so delighted the tabloids came Monday during a celebrity charity golf tournament at Wentworth Golf Course, south-east England. Asked by a photographer, the Duke and Duchess — Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson - posed together arm in arm, the and Sarah Perguson — poster agents and in arm, the tabloids recounted. When Prince Andrew left to start his round, his estranged spouse wished him luck and the two exchanged an affectionate kiss. "This is not an engagement picture. We're not getting engaged, you know. We're already married." joked the Duke of York. Sarah. 36, and Andrew 35, who were wed in 1986, have two daughters Beatrice, 7, and Eugenie, 5. Despite their separation in 1992, the Duke and Duchess have remained close friends showing on several occasions in public a deep affection for each other. The tabloid press has not given up hunting for signs of a possible reconciliation between the two royals

LONDON (AFP) -- An

artist shocked a courtroom

here when she yanked up her

skirt to display her naked; buttocks to a stunned judge

the world unite



A former police of torches the Frenc French embass in by France to resul N. Zeal

WELLINGTON Zealand said Tues to haul France International Cour MICI in a bid to st testing in the South a move Austra would support.
However while plomatic for with South Pacific mul tinues to escalate economic war fer straha and France Australia > No Wales (NSW - stat) ment retreated to a io ban a Francis-Co from bidding to a contract after A

Foreign Mir stuf Evans wanned a mil mic ramifications New Zealing and opposition and monsily agreed the large in the $^{\rm V}$ even though Frime im Boiger collections not strong im Boiger conceres open to New Zealan will take it as far . the n." he that t

Time is committee ... legal distance. in President inclues C Sand a series of the nuclear masses out to Freuch Politie. As France week as רו יו התמותשם expens 😅 i 🚞

option was to the old case in the air Japan's NAGASAKI, Jacan The 50th anciversary

atomic bombing takes place Weches commemora.... act more discreet 25.0 .ess than those neld :: Live last weekend At the a.m., the Nagasaki was a zackad "fat man" plutoning the port on the scription of the scripti will ring a memorial in the circ government will a new peace decid However, as in page the anniversary has attracted the series is

journalists from many tries covered the memoration service of 60,000 people proceed Bhutto sat

riole of Case Co.

Public interes: 500

Hiroshima Sunday

were sunner as officials said

A former police officer turned activist Abner Afuang (right)

torches the French flag outside the building housing the

French embassy in suburban Manila to protest the decision

by France to resume nuclear testing in the South Pacific in

ching a new one.

Bolger said.

"We will be actively seek-

ing to use the very narrow

window of opportunity avail-

able to New Zealand," Mr.

Australia, which along

with New Zealand has led

vociferous opposition to the

tests in the Pacific region,

declined to reopen its 1973

ICJ case against France, but

to further consideration of

the legal issues involved, to

intervene in support of New

Zealand's proposed applica-

tion to the International

Court of Justice," Mr. Evans

He said Australia would

not reopen its 1973 case be-

cause it was concerned with

are now conducted under-

ground at Mururoa Atoll.

atmospheric testing and tests

He said New Sealand's

case, which related to con-

tamination from nuclear test-

ing, had a better chance of

midable procedural and sub-

stantive hurdles in any such

action to jump," but we are

happy to support the initia-

tive in any way we usefully

Greenpeace has argued

strongly in favour of a World

Court action on ecological

may stop the tests. I don't

the peace memorial park.

Even though the bomb

dropped on Nagasaki had

more destructive power than

Hiroshima's uranium bomb.

the second atomic attack in

Japanese eyes has always

Perhaps the crudest reason

is that the 70,000 killed in

Nagasaki was half the num-

ber of lives lost in Hirosho-

Nagasaki's Urakami district,

destroyed.

where 20,000 buildings were

But because Nagasaki is

spread over a series of val-

bombing has always been

more diverse because the city

The blast's epicentre was in

been considered the "lesser'

of the nuclear tragedies.

"This is a possibility which

know of anything else out such agreement."

Japan's 2nd A-bomb city remembers dead

can," Mr. Evans said.

"There still remains for-

success.

grounds.

said in a statement.

Australia is likely, subject

backed New Zealand.

WELLINGTON (R) - New

Zealand said Tuesday it plans

to haul France before the

International Court of Justice

(ICI) in a bid to stop nuclear

testing in the South Pacific -

a move Australia said it

However, while the di-

plomatic row with Paris and ;

South Pacific nations con-

tinues to escalate, fears of an

economic war between Au-

Australia's New South

stralia and France subsided.

Wales (NSW) state govern-

ment retreated from its threat

to ban a Franco-German firm

from bidding for a helicopter

contract after Australian

Foreign Minister Gareth

Evans warned it of the econo-

New Zealand government

and opposition leaders unani-

mously agreed Tuesday to try

to reopen a 1973 legal chal-lenge in the World Court,

even though Prime Minister

Jim Bolger conceded the case

open to New Zealand and we

will take it as far as we can

take it," he told reporters. .

Time is running out for any

legal challenge, as French. President Jacques Chirac has

said a series of up to eight

French Polynesia next

As France withdrew its rec-

ognition of the ICJ in 1974,

experts said the only legal

option was to try to reopen

the old case instead of laun-

NAGASAKI, Japan (R) —

The 50th anniversary of the

atomic bombing of Nagasaki

takes place. Wednesday with

commemorative ceremonies

more discreet and less public

than those held in Hiroshima

Nagasaki was attacked by the

'fat man" plutonium bomb,

the port on the southern

Japanese island of Kyushu

will ring a memorial bell and

the city government will issue

a new peace declaration

the anniversary has not

attracted the same level of

tries covered the com-

memoration service at which

60,000 people packed into

However, as in past years,

against nuclear testing.

At 11:02 a.m., the time

last weekend.

"This is an option that is

mic ramifications.

was not strong.

nuclear bla

would support.

tack on July 14 "I don't want to gr Muraglia spor id raised her rei wing her buttock ich a message w efore any of the st ers could stop her of Islington, North then screamed. ouch me you per s she was removed dock, the jude anvone had see written on her but no-one had spotted ige. Rajiv told the in December las ient had been jaile onths after flashing n, bearing the me-Ty Christmas," at rt judge. Senten glia, Judge Brook ie had launched the

wives of rld unite

rst world confidence ives on Oct. 10. m of joining force quality, fair price ising that does no men, according p sers. Argenuni es League sai t had receive s from organs iy, Russia, Poland iy, Russia, Mai Republic, Mai Uruguay, par I, India and Sout a De Lazzari, head a De Lazzari, head rgentine League Argentina Nec elam) the congre for respect to healthy productives, and hope vertising that the men as a sex of

AIRES (R) ntine capital

ks after turning #

preliminary heat

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ave. he told he

shown no remark

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) injured; police said. A local shopkeeper was stabbed and four Muslim residents of the town injured in clashes with Hindu pilgrims

> Hotel Woodstock by suspected Muslim separatists, police said.

Police used batons to break up to street battles between stone-throwing Hindu pilgrims and Kashmiri Muslims

who went on the rampage

following the bombing of the

following the bombing Mon-

rorists," the official APP news agency said. The government blames

Karachi's main opposition party, the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), for much of the violence that has left more than 1,200 people dead this year. Political talks MQM.

The party denies it is responsible for the violence and charges the government has persecuted the city's several

million strong Urdu-speaking settler community from India, the electoral base of

The kidnappers of Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan, American Donald Hutchings, German Dirk Hasert and Norwegian Hans Ostro are demanding the re-

Wells, Mangan and Hutchings were kidnapped while hiking near Pahalgam on July 4. Hasert and Ostro were seized separately in the same

More than 12,000 people have died in a Muslim separatist campaign in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, since 1989.

commander Aslan Mashkha-Russian and Chechen negotiators moved to consolidate away Caucasus republic.

Menawhile the two sides again postponed a prisoner exchange called for under a military accord signed on July 30. because of disagreement on how many prisoners each side is holding. The swap had already been postponed Monday, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported in

Mr. Mashkhadov went to Chechen fighters.

September. Protestors calling for a boycott of French

products turn up almost everyday as they have promised to

Mr. Doutriaux said there

was plenty of evidence that

France was "acting in a 100

per cent legal way" in con-

ducting a limited series of

underground tests at its

South Pacific site on Mururoa

Atoll before signing a worl-

dwide test ban treaty next

ter Bolger's announcement

that New Zealand would try

to reopen a 1973 case before

the Hague court in a bid to

halt the French tests, he told

Reuters: "I think it is for

domestic (political) purposes

because the New Zealand

government knows perfectly

well that the ICJ can act only

if there is agreement between

the two countries con-

policeman burned the French

flag outside the French

embassy Tuesday to protest

against the decision by Paris

to resume nuclear testing in

About a hundred passers by

stopped in front of the

embassy, to watch, Abner

fire to the tricolou.

and stubborn people of

France" should try dropping

the atomic bomb in their

homeland, adding the Filipi-

trading and military port.

Meanwhile, an American

pilot who witnessed the ato-

mic bomb attack on Nagasaki

called for peace at the cere-

mony commemorating the

50th anniversary of the blast.

peace will continue and that

you and the Marianas will

flourish," Frederick C. Bock

said in a message sent on behalf of the 509th Compo-

site Bomb Group, which was

stationed on Tinian, North-

ern Mariana Islands, in 1945.

Mr. Bock, whose B-29

accompanied Bock's Car, the

plane that dropped the

membrance of the events

leading to the end of war

against Japan.

"It is our hope that relative

In an open letter to the

the South Pacific.

France said Tuesday it will! Afuang, who identified him-lock the attempt by 'New' self as a "lone crusader," set

weapons tests before the In- French government, Mr.

pute to the court and "in the nos, "together with the whole

case of France, there is no world will appreciate it very

Afriang

much.'

In Manila a former Filipino

Asked about Prime Minis-

protest for one month (AFP photo)

there which will," Green-

peace lawyer Duncan Currie

said of the New Zealand gov-

On the economic protest

front, one of New Zealand's

leading retail chains, the

Warehouse Group.

announced Tuesday it would

boycott French goods as a

But in Australia the NSW

government said it is "unlike-

ly the state will take any

action to escalate economic

warfare," having threatened

to ban Franco-German firm

Eurocopter from a \$3.3 mil-

Mr. Evans said in a letter

to New South Wales that its plan to take economic action

might only distract attention

from France's "deplorable

such actions — especially

when they may well trigger

further retaliatory responses

- may well cause more dam-

age to Australian interests

than those of France," said

the letter to New South

block the attempt by 'New'

Zealand to challenge its deci-

Foreign Ministry spokes-

man Yves Doutriaux said it

required the agreement of

both parties to take any dis-

is the centre of Christianity in

Japan and prayers for the

dead come from divided reli-

ernment's decision to recon-

struct Hiroshima as a city of

peace, where a conference

centre now plays host to anti-

nuclear campaigns, the most

poignant symbol of Nagasa-

ki's holocaust is a statue that

offers benediction over the

Six days after the bombing

of Nagasaki, on Aug. 15,

Emperor Hirohito ordered

the unconditional surrender

into an "international culture

city" it has never recovered

its past position as a major

Unlike the Japanese gov-

gious communities.

sion to resume nuclear

Wales Premier Bob Carr.

"Another concern is that

lion helicopter contract.

ernment move.

protest gesture.

position.

N. Zealand plans nuclear court action against Paris

The meeting in Shali, 40 kilometres south of the devastated Chechen capital Grozny, was aimed at preparing the ground for disarming Chechen forces in the area. On Monday, the military chiefs from both sides went on a similar trip to Zandak, a

Chechenya — the first such move to implement the military accord brokered by the Shali Mayor Makhma Basnakayev told Mr. Maskhadov

that construction workers from the Russian cities of Omsk and Rostov had left Shali since armed separatist

COLOMBO (Agencies) — A

Tamil Tiger suicide bomber

who killed 24 people when he

detonated plastic explosive

hidden in a cart full of coco-

nuts had been ordered to

search for and destroy "a

motorcade with tinted win-

dows," police said Tuesday. The bomber, an Indian

Tamil, was stopped with an

accomplice in a Colombo

suburb Sunday, the day be-

fore the bomb blast, pushing

the cart, but only the accom-

plice was detained, police

The accomplice said after

the blast in Colombo's

fashionable embassy district

that their mission had been to

detonate the bomb near a

motorcade with tinted win-

dows, Colombo Police Chief

given a mission by the intelli-

gence chief of the Tamil Ti-

ger rebels to wheel his cart

MOSCOW (R) - Russia's

counter-intelligence service

detained a U.S. citizen near a

secret Siberian nuclear plant.

but the man, from the army's

West Point Academy, was

freed after a few hours.

ITAR-TASS news agency

The agency said the Amer-

ican had been detained last

Thursday carrying out "un-

sanctioned" work near the

secret Krasnovarsk-26 mining

and chemical complex - one

of Russia's biggest atomic

said Tuesday.

centres.

G.B. Kotakadeniya said.

bomb went off.

fighters entered the town and anti-Russian. slogans were chanted daily at political ral-

After the accord was signed the meetings we had organised were taken over by people who came in from Bamut, Shatoi, Benoi. They should go back home instead of campaigning. Armed fighters entered Shah, people got scared and left," he said.

There is an urgent need to rebuild here. People are desperate. We need to reestablish normal conditions," Mr. Basnakayev told the officials from both sides at the Russian military command in

Shali chief prosecutor Sulumbek Idagov said crime had risen in the area since May and "law enforcement bodies can no longer cope." "We need to restore order and stop these public

meetings. Mr. Maskhadov replied that the Chechen separatist fighters were not to blame for

the eight-month war in

Chechenya and "it is wrong for people to fear them." "Only the people lwho want the war to continue accuse us of being traitors,"

he said. Explaining the demilitarisation plan, Mr. Maskhadov warned that both sides could soon start fighting against each other if the military accord was not implemented

quickly. "(Chechen separatist) fighters who entered Achkhoi Martana and Shali and declared they were in charge were wrong to do that," he conceded.

Mr. Maskhadov said that in line with the accord, in Shali and the 17 villages in the district Chechen forces would hand in their weapons as Russian troops began withdrawing, initially two to four kilometres from their present positions.

Locally elected selfdefence units each with up to 25 men will protect Shali and the villages, carrying small arms surrendered by the fighters.

New village chiefs would be freely elected in each area and the self-defence units would elect their own commanders.

"For the first time people will say who they want in Mr. Maskhadov charge,"

He criticised a statement by President Boris Yeltsin Monday in which the Russian leader proposed that elections in Chechenya be postponed until the first half of next year.

"This statement raises particular fears - perhaps something terrible could happen. We must implement the accord quickly," Mr. Maskhadov said.

Elections in Chechenya have been tentatively scheduled for November but so far no electoral rules have been agreed. A' fragile ceasefire has

been in effect since June 20. Between 15,000 and 30,000 people have died, according to various estimates, since Russian troops stormed into Chechenya on Dec. 11 to crush a three-year independ-

ence bid by separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Meanwhile, a Russian military spokesman accused Mr. Dudayev of inciting new resistance to Russian forces Monday amid increasing evidence a peace accord is breaking down.

Mr. Dudayev appeared at a rally in the vilalge of Tangi and called for continuing the war until full victory is achieved, Russian spokesman Colonel Alexander Georgiyev told the Interfax News Agency.

The spokesman said Mr. Dudavey claimed that his troops have begun final preparations for a broad-scale combat operation.

Chechen negotiator Akhmed Zakayev, attending peace talks in the Chechen capitla Grozny, told ITAR-TASS that the Russian claims were "provocative."

But even President Yeltsin acknowledged the continuing unrest in Chechenya despite a military agreement signed on July 30 that called for Russian troops to begin withdrawing and rebel fighters to disam.

"Disarmament should go first (in Chechenya)," Mr. Yeltsin was quoted as saying by the Interfax News Agency. "Elections cannot be held at gunpoint as long as illegal armed units exist.

Mr. Yeltsin reaffirmed Russian opposition to complete Chechen independence. 'Chechenya, the same as other republics (in the Russian Federation), will have a certain degree of independence," he said.

Local Chechen leaders protest over roaming fighters in towns

SHALI, Russia (Agencies) Local Chechen leaders urged separatist military dov Tuesday to stop his armed fighters entering Shali and neighbouring villages as the ceasefiree in the break-

Moscow,

Shalai with senior Russian military officials and two representatives of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to explain the joint military accord to town leaders and

village in southeastern

Twenty-two people were

more victims died Tuesday.

was detained.

He said he did not know why the bomber, believed by police to be a member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), had targeted the council offices where the The bomber had been

cian. He added it was unlucky police had not detained both

Krasnoyarsk-26, one of

dozens of closed cities across

the former Soviet Union, was

founded in 1954 to make

plutonium for nuclear

bombs. TASS said entire

streets were carved into the

rock and three underground

reactors had been built there.

counter-intelligence service

- a successor to the KGB

security police - answered

"yes" when asked if he could

confirm a TASS report that

the American had been de-

tained "while collecting in-

A spokesman for the FSB

Russia detains, frees American near nuclear centre

Vietnam president begins visit to Cambodia

then blow it up, Chief Kota-. kadeniya said. Police sources said his target had been more specifically a motorcade either carrying President Chandrika ber.

Kumaratunga or her deputy defence minister.

killed and more than 40 wounded on Monday when the bomber set off five kilogrammes of C3 plastic explosives outside the offices of the chief minister of the Western Provincial Council. Two.

We questioned them. The bomber could speak Sinhalese and said he was merely selling king coconuts, and he was allowed to go Chief Kotakadeniya told Reuters. "But the other man could not answer" and

Had both been detained, they would have blown up the cart at that time, he said, adding there were sure to be other suicide bomb teams in the capital.

"It really was a stroke of luck," Chief Kotakadeniya said. "If police had not arrested this man, he could have blasted a motorcade with a very important politi-

until he found his target and Along with the accomplice, police have arrested a Tamil man and a woman, living at separate addresses, in connection with providing accommodation for the bom-

Sri Lanka bomber reportedly aimed for motorcade in a bid to find a political Security officials said at least two people were killed

and 12 wounded when a parcel bomb ripped through a market in the eastern Sri Lankan town of Batticaloa Tuesday. They said the LTTE were the prime sus-

Chief Kotakadeniya said security in Colombo had been at its highest for some. time with security forces on . special alert. "It's physically impossible

to search every car and every handcart. Even in Israel it is impossible," he said.

But we are looking into all their tactics - trying cars. ice-cream vans and even fishmonger buckets." He said the two had re-

ceived their instructions from

Pottu Amman, intelligence chief for the LTTE, which has been fighting for a homeland in the north and east since 1983. "They operate in small un-

its. They are independent separate groups sent from Jaffna," he said.

The detained accomplice, a Jaffna Tamil from Trincomalee, would be charged, Chief Kotakadeniya said. He did not elaborate.

Mrs. Kumaratunga last week announced a devolution plan giving extensive autonomy to minority Tamils

telligence information."

A U.S. embassy spokes-

man confirmed an assistant

professor from the U.S. milit-

ary academy at West Point,

New York, had been travell-

ing in the Krasnoyarsk area

at the invitation of part of the

Siberian branch of the Rus-

sian Academy of Sciences.

had no information about any

GMT) today, the U.S. embassy has not been offi-

But press spokesman Richard Hougland said he

"As of II o'clock (0700)

solution to the conflict in which more than 50,000 people have been killed.

Tamil Tiger guerrillas have abducted 16 construction workers in Sri Lanka's embattled east, officials said Tuesday.

In all, 13 casual labourers and three others were kidnapped Sunday by gunmen from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, officials said:

The 16 were working for the government-run Mahaweli Engineering and Construction Agency, building roads and irrigation canals around the village of Ranasaratenna, 280

kilometres east of Colombo. The construction agency has asked the International Committee of the Red Cross to negotiate with the LTTE for the release of the hostages, officials said.

The motive for the abductions was not immediately clear, local police said.

Police said they had not heard from the LTTE, but believed the 16 men were being held at a well-fortified rebel base located in thick jungles nearby.

The announcement of the abductions came as the government revealed it was tightening security across the country in the wake of the two bombs.

cially notified of any deten-

The initial report that an

American had been detained

evoked parallels with cold

war days, when Moscow and.

Washington competed for in-

formation on space, arms and

Tit-for-tat expulsions of di-

plomats or journalists were

common, with both sides

accusing the other of engag-

ing in "activities incompati-ble with their status."

nuclear technology.

tion." he said.

leys, the B-29 bomber which bomb, said his group was honoured to be included in Despite government buildpublic interest seen in dropped "fat man" was uning programmes from 1949 Hiroshima Sunday, when the Northern Marianas' reable to target the whole city. onwards to turn Nagasaki journalists from many coun-Nagasaki's response to the

of Japan.

KARACHI (AFP) - Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto expressed satisfaction with the results of a crackdown on "terrorists" in Pakistan's violence-plagued commercial capital, where three more people were gunned down Tuesday, officials said.

view the situation in Karachi and said there would be "no

A 25-year old man was shot dead by unidentified gun-

neighbourhood while two bullet ridden bodies were found

elsewhere, police said, bringing the death toll in August alone to more than 70, Ms. Bhutto met with senior officials here Monday to re-

men in the suburban Pirabad . letup" in actions against "ter-

Bhutto satisfied with anti-terrorism drive in Karachi between the two sides are deadlocked.

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Vietnam and Cambodia put aside their lingering border dispute Tuesday to tackle the contentious issue of migration during a visit here by Vietnamese President Le Duc Anh, the Cambodian foreign minister said.

The two sides agreed to temporarily maintain the border drawn on current maps until a future compromise is reached, Foreign Minister Ung Huot said after Co-Premiers Prince Norodom Ranaridhh and Hun Sen met with Mr. Le Duc Anh.

The border has been a problem between the historical enemies for years. In 1978. Vietnam invaded and virtually erased the border during its 10-year occupation. Since then, Cambodian

farmers in the eastern pro-

vince of Kampong Cham have repeatedly claimed Vietnamese soldiers push them off their rice fields in favour of Vietnamese farmers.

drawn on current maps, Mr. Ung Huot said he hoped problems surrounding migration and illegal border crossings would also be resolved. "We have agreed to main-

By sticking to the lines

tain the existing border so that people will not cross the border," he said, adding that further negotiations on the issue would take place in October. The Vietnamese govern-

ment expressed concern last year that Cambodia's new immigration law could lead to massive round-ups and deportations of ethnic, many of whom have been living here for generations. More than 400 ethnic Viet-

detention.

namese familier who fled a Khmer Rouge massacre in Cambodia's interior in 1993 have been stuck in a makeshift floating village on the Mekong River near the border, awaiting permission to re-enter Cambodia.

Mr. Ung Huot said Tuesday that recent rumours about camps being set up for ethnic Vietnamese were untrue and that mass deportations would not occur. Close relations with Cam-

bodia's eastern neighbour have also been hindered by the outlawed Khmer Rouge, which accuses the government of collaborating with its ancient enemy at the expense of its own people. The rebels claim Vietnam still intends to annex Cambodia.

A visit by a Cambodian delegation to Vietnam last month to resolve the immigration issue failed, but the issue will be the subject of talks when a Vietnamese delegation visits Phnom Penh later this year, Mr. Ung Huot

Mr. Le Duc Anh, who arrived here Tuesday morning, is the most senior Vietnamese official to visit Cambodia since the 1993 elections. His visit is widely seen as an attempt to patch up differences that have plagued the two Indochinese rivals for centuries.

Mr. Le Duc Anh, who leaves Cambodia Wednesday, also met with King Norodom Sihanouk, whom he invited to visit Vietnam in December, and the chairman of the National Assembly. Chea Sim.

Kashmir mountain resort tense after blast

- The Kashmir mountain day evening. Police reinforcements were resort of Pahalgam, where rushed in to maintain order in five Western tourists were kidnapped a month ago, was . Pahalgam, where the situation was described as tense tense Tuesday after a bomb blast left five Hindu pilgrims. Tuesday.

Two of the five pilgrims injured in the bombing of the hotel were in serious condition, hospital sources aid. A hardline Muslim separatist group, the Harkdt-Ul-Ansar, has vowed to disrupt the annual Hindu pilgrimage from Pahalgam, 100 kilometres east of this Kashmir summer capital, to a cave

shrine in the Himalayas. Two bomb blasts in Jammu, the Kashmir summer capital and starting point for the pilgrimage, last month claimed by the Harkat-Ul-Ansar, or Movement of Friends, left 21 people dead.

Thousands of Hindu pilgrims are making the threeday trek from Pahalgam to the cave shrine and the Indian authorities have deployed tens of thousands of policemen and paramilitary troops to protect the Hindu de-

Five Western tourists were kidnapped in the Pahalgam area last month by Muslim militant group believed to have links with the Harkat-Ul-Ansar.

lease of 15 Muslim militants from Indian prisons.

area tour days later.

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Salvation in elections

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin's decision to postpone elections in Chechenya till an as yet undetermined date in 1996 does not bode well for the efforts to resolve the conflict in the war-torn republic. Initially there was talk about holding elections in autumn. In fact the Russian delegation to the peace talks with the Chechens itself suggested Nov. 5, 1995 as a provisional date for those elections. But what has been decided by the Russian leadership lately can dampen hopes of an early settlement.

We believe that determining in the clearest possible terms and as soon as possible what the Chechens want is a pivotal point on which the entire peace effort depends. Without knowing once and for all the choice of the people with regard to their form of association with the Russian Federation within the shortest period of time, there can be no basis for a successful conclusion of negotiations on the future of the Muslim region.

Some 20,000 people have lost there lives since Russian troops marched into the republic on Dec. 11, 1994 to quell the three-year old independence drive by the Chechen people. But the two antagonists reached a military accord last month which ushered in a new era of relative peace and an end to a military conflict. That achievement should have paved the way for attaining a final settlement to the crisis based on the exercise of the right of self-determination by the Chechens and by which they would have to decide whether to be totally independent or remain associated with the Russian Federation. Any interruption in the peace talks on one pretext or another could unravel everything that was painstakingly achieved till now and plunge the area into a new war.

It is all well and understandable to insist on tranquility in the republic before holding free elections and quite another to put them off indefinitely. It should not take more than a few months to reestablish peace and stability in Chechenya. The people there have a vested interest in conducting the polls immediately since that would end more quickly the era of armed conflict and violence. Moscow should not act as the stumbling block to rebuilding and democratising Chechenya. Enough suffering has been borne already.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday expressed the view that the U.N. Security Council would not lift the embargo on Iraq unless the Arab countries did so first. Saying that His Majesty Hussein is currently leading efforts at the pan-Arab level to achieve that goal. Tareq Masarweh said that the Arab states ought to realise that Iraq remains the key to the Gulf, that its people have always stood by their Arab brothers in the past and that this Arab country serves as the Arab Nation's strategic depth and therefore they ought to help end the sufferings of its 20 million people. It should be emphasised, said the writer, that any peace with Israel will not be complete and lasting and the Arab national security will not be guaranteed unless Iraq is involved in safeguarding peace and stability in the region. Saying that King Hussein is seeking European help to end the suffering of the Iraqi people, the writer said that the time has come for the Arabs and the world community at large to seek an end to the human tragedy of the Iraqi people, who have committed no sin and are in dire need of humanitarian assistance. The Iraqis constitute part of the Arab Nation and they are neighbours and brothers who have often rallied to support and help Arab states, said the writer, who stressed the need for all out efforts by Arab masses and their leaders to bring their ordeal to an end.

REFLECTING ON the situation in the former Yugoslavia. a writer in Al Ra'i said that the Bosnian Muslims are today paying the price of the Ottoman Empire's expansion in Europe. The Muslims of Europe in general are paying the price of the Continent's bitter and bloody history with their lives at the hands of the Serbs and other ethnic groups, said Husni Ayesh. Accusing the Serbian Republic of supplying the Serbs with weapons and means to pursue their atrocities against the Muslims, the writer said Europe is depriving the Muslims of acquiring the means for their own self-defence. Of course, Russia is the main support of Serbia and the Serbian rebels of Croatia and Bosnia. basing its attitude on religious and historical considerations dating back to the days of the Ottoman Empire, while the other Europeans are looking on indifferent to the suffering of the civilian population, added the writer. He said that the Bosnian are also paying the price of their leaders mistake. who were quick to declare their Muslim Republic, having received encouragement from Iran. He said had the Bosnians waited they would have got what they wanted because Croatia and Serbs were certain to go to war to settle their historic territorial disputes and Bosnia could have benefited from their neighbours' weakness in consoli-

dating its entity.

Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

Washington's hot political summer

IT IS now midsummer in Washington, and both the weather and the political climate are extremely hot.

The candidates for the 1996 presidential elections have turned up the heat on one another — campaining with real intensity. At the same time, President Bill Clinton and the Republican-controlled Congress are locked in a number of bitter debates over budget matters, as well as several critical foreign and domestic policy disputes. And both Republicans and Democrats are engaged in serious intraparty ideological battles.

But what is most interesting about these summer political storms is that they are largely Washingtonbased phenomena - consuming events within the U.S. capital but attracting little attention in the rest of the country.

Ten Republican candidates are campaigning for their party's nomination to run against President Clinton in November 1996. The group recently made a joint appearance before an annual Republican Party leadership meeting and devoted more time and energy to attacking one another than their future Democratic opponent. Observers were somewhat surprised, since there is an unwritten rule in the Republican Party, which dates back to the days of Ronald Reagan, that Republican candidates are not to speak ill of one

another. This was not the case last month, nor is the case now. The first exchange of fire took place between conservative candidates Pat Buchanan (the former CNN commentator) and Senator Phil Gramm of Texas, both of whom are competing to be the leading spokesman for the conservative cause.

Mr. Buchanan challenged Mr. Gramm to a debate to prove who is the more genuine conservative. Mr.—Gramm's responded that_it_is_"impossible_to have a serious debate with (Buchanan) since he distorts facts." Mr. Buchanan refused to back down, characterising the situation in this way: "Phil Gramm is Gramm's way.

Meanwhile, Pennsylvania Senator Arlen Specter, the most moderate of the Republicans, challenged Mr. Buchanan to a debate about social issues such as abortion, immigration, and the role of the Surpeme

Mr. Buchanan at first dimissed Mr. Specter, then agreed to a debate, but focused his fire on the

other Republican moderate - California Governor Pete Wilson — calling him a "pro-gay, pro-abortion, big taxer," Mr. Wilson responded angrily, comparing his experience as a Senator and governor of a state with the equivalent of the world's sixth-largest economy with Mr. Buchanan's lack of experience. Buchanan has only to manage his mouth," Mr.

Former Tennessee Governor and Bush cabinet official Lamar Alexander was next to enter the fray. Describing himself as the only "outsider" in the field (meaning that he is the only candidate whose experience comes from outside of Washington — which is his claim, although it is clearly untrue). Mr. Alexander suggested that Republicans should choose a nominee based on more than their "long-term service in the Senate," an obvious reference to the age (72) of the front-runner, Senator Bob Dole of Kansas. If elected, Mr. Dole would be the

oldest man ever inaugu-

rated to serve as president.

His age has become an

issue - although it was not

Wilson guipped.

expected that a Republican would raise it. Indiana Senator Richard Lugar, the least known member of the group, at first attempted to play the peace-maker and chided his colleagues for their bitter interecine attacks. But then he too delivered a nasty blow while addressing the issue of "family values." This theme is a big one for the Republican candidates this campaign season, and Mr. Lugar shocked the press and some in his party when he noted

that among the top Repub-

lican candidates, most were

divorced and remarried

(Mr. Dole, Mr. Gramm

and Mr. Wilson).

Senator Dole, the runaway Republican leader at this point in the race, also attacked his rivals. When Mr. Gramm scolded Mr. Dole for comprising on several issues, including tax cuts, welfare reform and abortion, implying that he was "unprincipled." Mr. Dole responded that pasple — implying that Mr. Gramm was a bit of a "gadfly," interested in scoring political points but not necessarily in achieving

concrete ends. The intensity of this intra-party fighting among the Republicans is in direct response to the lack of voter interest in the candidates themselves. Most observers were quite surprised by the figures when

the candidates released their mid-year fundraising totals last month, as required by federal election law. The combined total of all the candidates is a presidential campaign record \$54 million raised since the beginning of the campaign cycle, of which more than \$30 million has aiready

And yet, with \$30 million spent, there is a substantial lack of interest among voters in the presidential campaign as a whole and the candidates in particular.

Although President Clinton's approval ratings are still higher than his negative ratings, they are under 50 per cent. A recent poll showed his positive rating at 45 per cent and his negative rating at 42 per cent. And yet, even with such lackluster public approval. no recent poll shows any Republican candidate defeating Mr. Clinton if the election were held today. Mr. Dole comes the closest of any of the Republicans in a mock race against Mr. Clinton, though the polls show that even he would lose to the president by three or four per cent of the

Among Republicans. Mr. Dole is favoured by more than 40 per cent, with Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Gramm getting slightly more than 10 per cent apiece. None of the other candidates score higher than 6 per cent.

What this suggets is that although they are facing a weekend Democrat in Bill Clinton, the Republican challengers have not yet excited voters and won them to their campaigns. Hence, the Republican fireworks are an effort to create head and increase voter interest.

Thus far, however, the only interest and excitement created by the ten Republican candidates appears to be within the political circles of Washingon_But_if_that is true about the 1996 presidential campaign, it is also true about the other highly charged elements of the hot Washington summer of

The House and the Şenthe Whitewater controversy (a confusing financial affair involving an investment the Clintons made while Mr. Clinton was governor of Arkansas and on which they claim to have lost money — a claim disbelieved by some Republicans who believe that it was the fear of a Whitewater "scandal" that drove a White House aide to suicide in 1993); and the

the hearings generate a good amount of press, the rest of the nation is paying more attention to the murder trial of former sports hero O.J. Simpson and the recently completed murder trial of Susan Smith (who was convicted of drowning her two young children). When the complex issues.

Waco disaster. But while

of Whitewater and Waco are explained to voters. they agree than an investigation into each case is order, but they still dismiss the current hearings as mere paritsan efforts to embarrass the president. Both sets of hearings may lead to new discoveries that could prove troublesome for the presidnet, but for now both Whitewater and Waco are of concern only to those who live and work "inside the beltway."

The more serious battles between the White House and the Republican-led Congress are over legislation: balancing the federal budget and reducing the federal debt, reforming the nation's welfare system. and charting a new U.S. policy on Bosnia. While Republicans have

won the opening rounds on each of these and other legisative battles before the Congress, the threat of a White House veto has forced the congressional leadership to move more cautiously as is prepares to send the president their final products for his consideration. This strategy has worked so well for Mr. Clinton that, despite heated partisan bickering. Mr. Clinton has vetoed fewer bill to this point in his tenure that any president in the modern era.

As a result, either controversial issues have been shelved or compromises between the Republicanled Congress and the administration have been arranged. In almost all instances, aside from a few ideologically committed individuals, most of the public seems to be unaware of the legislative matters at stake, the debates seem to almost wholly interntal to Washington life.

The one issue before Congress that may explode to a national concern is the deep division between the Congress and the president over the federalbudget.

In an effort to keep their 1994 campaign promise to balance the federal budget. the Republican Congress has proposed deep cuts in the federal budget - cuts so deep that the Republicans plan to eliminate the budget deficit by the year 2004. Complementing the

Republican-proposed cuts is the fact they have added significant tax cuts to their programme as well.

As Republicans have shown some internal divisions on the buget issue, with House leader Newt Gingrich proposing more radical cuts than those proposed by Senate Majority Leader Dole, the Democrats are far more deeply divided.

Recognising that some cuts would be inevitable and that pressure to eliminate the deficit is a popular campaign theme. President Clinton responded to the Republican proposals to eliminate the deficit by the year 2004 with a plan of his own to accomplish the same aim by 2007. The three extra years allow the president to save some important social programmes and to protect medicare. While these internal par-

ty debates are important. the central issue, of course, is the fact that very soon the Republicans must present a budget bill to the president for his approval. Since the gap between the White House and the Congress is still large, a veto seems likely. The Republicans have declared that if the president vetoes their budget, they will not approve the temporary legislation necessary to keep the government operating (as had happened in the past when Republican presidents disagreed with the Democratic Congress) until a full budget bill is approved. In essence, the congressional Republicans are willing to shut down the federal government in a test of wills with the presi-

Both sides are convinced that a shutdown of the government will work in their favour. Republicans are saying, "that's what the voters want anyway - an end to big government." The president feels that if Republicans shut down the government they will have to answer when needed services and social security checks aren't delivered to a public that expects the government to work for them.

It, in fact, may take a shut-down of the government for the public to beterested in the heated debates raging in the nation's capital.

Until now, the battles and debates have been largely an "insider" game. The stakes are high, the outcome will be decisive for the future of the U.S. but for most Americans the debates remain abstract and the elections are still a year and half away.

It Occurred to Me.... By Ali Kassay

All I want is a room somewhere

IT IS BIZARRE to see the large number of people (mainly middle class young couples) who cannot find affordable accommodation, alongside a large number of empty flats, 4,000, according to the President of the Iordanian Real Estate Jordanian Investors' Society (the Jordan Times, 16 July, quoting Al Aswaq). It is clear from this that supply (flats on offer) is not meeting demand (the needs of home seekers) which is scarcely surprising given the absurd lease laws, and the surreal salary scale.

In the early sixties, the government, full of good intentions, moved to protect tenants from exploitation, by giving them an open licence to exploit their landlords. It enacted legislation making lease of unfurnished property indefinite even if the contract stated otherwise. Moreover, the lease passes to the heirs of the lessee with the terms unchanged. In other words, once rent is fixed, nothing short of a disaster that wipes out the whole tribe of the tenant can earn the landlord more money from his prop-

In the decades that followed, the cost of living soared due to inflation and other economic factors. Consequently, lease agreements made before the sixties, sometimes at the then reasonable rate of 50 to 100 dinars annually, became irrelevant to the real market value. Yet the law remained unchanged until the eighties. when it permitted a review of old rents, raising them by an annual fortune of 10 to 20 dinars. Seriously, since Jordanian law recognises the validity of contracts, why does it make an exception of leases? Why can rent agreements and, for that matter, salaries, not be open to revi-

sion every ten years to reflect the real cost of living?

Inevitably, new investors in property developed tactics to protect themselves against the law and ensure the return of their investment within a reasonable period. Some demand a large forward payment as a condition for rent. Others seek a very high rent in anticipation of its future loss of real value. The ideal arrangement is to lease furnished property (of which the terms of the lease are fixed by contract), preferably to foreigners whose stay in Jordan is limited, and, more significantly, whose salaries, unlike those of Jordanians, reflect the real cost of living.

These methods could not help owners of old property, to which tenants, understandably, stuck like limpets: to rocks; but they added new complications. They priced new flats beyond the means of the Jordanian low to middle income family, with its overt monthly income of JD-200. Assuming that both parents work, and that paterfamilias has a second job,__ albeit in violation of the law, the family still cannot pay more than JD 150 a month. in rent, even if it were possible for the landlord to request more. Briefly put. the Jordanian middle class family is being priced out of the property market both as proprietor and as tenant.

The implications of this are grave. We have seen in other countries the catastrophic results of maintaining an unreal economic cycle, which eliminates the prospect of upward mobility: through honest work. Some of the early symptoms of this malady are now beginning to manifest themselves in this country. Will Jordan see the writing on the wall?

Is Israel facing threat of civil war?

By G.H. Jansen

THE JEWISH state is presently facing its most serious internal crisis since it was founded nearly 50 years ago. This crisis is not caused by any action of hostile Arab neighbours, nor by an uprising of the Palestinians living under occupation. but because of what Israelis call "the wars between the Jews;" conflicts between the Jewish citizens of the Jewish state and between the citizens and the government. The peace process has placed Israel clearly in a pre-civil war situation.

This is why the president of Israel, Ezer Weizman, stepped in and called for a temporary truce between the government and those Jews who oppose its peace policies. He spoke of "a widening rift in the nation." His use of the word "nation" is both significant and accurate for the contended ground represent basic tendencies in the nation's mind-set. The representatives of the two sides met during the truce but could not reach agreement.

Thus, immediately after the expiry of the 72 hours truce settlers at first light on Monday occupied two new sites, indicating that their struggle with their government is an ongoing one and will, almost certainly, be long drawn out.

There are two main

groups: One made up of

Jews who are Zionists first

and Israelis second, the

other comprising Jews who

are Israelis first and Zion-

ists second. Thus, Zionists are facing off Israelis. And the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. himself a fervent life-long Zionist, represents the "Israeli side." Of course, in the broader

sense all Israelis are Zionists, otherwise they would not be living in the Jewish state. But, more specifically, the Zionists are those who believe quite literally that the "land of Israel" is the "Promised Land" given to the Jews by their tribal god, Yahweh (who the U.S. novelist Gore Vidal refers to as "The Great Real Estate Agent in the Sky)' and therefore not one square foot of this land can be alienated to any non-Jew. The crunch has come because the Oslo accord says that Israel should do just that, return Jewish occupied territory on the West Bank, in what the Zionists call "Judea and Samaria," the heartland of the "Promised Land," to non-Jewish Palestinians.

More realistic Israelis. being Israelis first and Zionists second, feel the resonance of the Zionist first arguments but also understand that if this uncompromising camp is to succeed, Israel will have no peace with the Arabs.

Among the activist Zionists are the settlers, 130,000 of them living amidst 2.2 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. So. like the militant Islamists in Hamas and Islamic Jihad. the settlers are openly and professedly opposed to the

entire "peace process" and they wish to destroy the Oslo accord and hence bring down the Labour Party government of Yitzhak Rabin.

This particular crisis was triggered by a government announcement that "state land," not land privately acquired by Jews, would be given back to the Palestine National Authority as part of the redeployment of Israeli troops and the extension of the Palestinian selfrule area. It just so happens that much of "state land" is alongside Jewish settlements and is seen as providing a safety belt, a buffer zone, for the settlements. To make it possible for Arabs to live next to Jewish settlements is not only anti-Zionist but a threat to the settlers' security.

The settlers, in 130 settlements, the majority living in large towns of 20-30,000 people and others in sites inhabited by less than 100 persons, are well organised in groups such as the "land of Israel first" (a successor to the old "land of Israel" movement founded after 1967) and the "Council for Jewish Settlements."

They claim to represent "the essence of Zionist philosophy," and they do in-deed. When, as in the last few days, they squat on rocky hillsides it is to ensure that that land will have on it a "Jewish presence," and then they add "and not a Palestinian presence." The fact that these hilltops and the whole area in which they are located have belonged to Palestinians for hundreds of years is an irrelevance, as far as the settlers are concerned, because, for them, the land is 'God-given to the Jews.'

For the settlers to be dragged away from the land by Jewish Israeli soldiers and policemen is an intensely emotional expenence, a gross betrayal of Zionism that evokes floods of tears from the protesters and also from some of the guardians of the law, deeply distrubed by such action. The present crisis of the Israeli state and its law enforcing agencies, the army and police, versus the settlers may be said to have a

Gandhian angle because the settlers have, cleverly, decided to use non-violent civil disobedience: When the police and army try to remove the squatters, in-cluding whole families with women and children, even small children, they "go limp" and they have to be carried and dragged away offering only token resist-

As the British discovered in India satyagraha is notor-iously difficult to deal with and the settlers believe that sooner or later army and police morale will crack because many soldiers and policemen already agree with the Zionist cause.

(While the tactics of the Zionists may be Gandhian the underlying postulates of Zionism are non-Gandhian. For as the Mahatma said to one Zionist lobbiest, the British MP Sidney Silverman, "Let me be clear, you

want something, a piece of land, that has already belonged to someone else for hundreds of years. In that case I cannot support you).'

In this call for a truce President Weixman referred to the rift that was being created between the army and the people; a group of Jewish rabbis has already called on soldiers to disobey orders to remove settlers and settlements. This confrontation could yet become a real threat to the state structure. Perhaps this is why peacemakers have made particular appeals to rabbis to mediate in this

As one of the settler leaders. Yechiel Leiter, says, "The strategy is to tie up the government, the legal system and the army with constant protests and to crowd the jails with protes-

Observers of the present crisis are saying that the divide is "unbridgeable and irreconcilable" and in theory it is: Palestine/Israel is either going to be a multiethnic society or has to practice ethnic cleansing to become a purified. 100 per cent Jewish state. Therefore there will not and cannot be Arab-Israel peace unless the Jewish people abandon racially-exclusive Zionism.

But will the settlers be able to frustrate the Oslo accord and bring down the Rabin government? That is a distinct possibility - and even a probability.

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By PVVii

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Features

Slowly but steadily, Kobe limps back

By P.V.Vivekanand

MAKESHIFT shelters. mangled steel structures. long, deep cracks on key roads, burnt-out buildings and heavily propped-up bridges mark the skyline of Kobe, bearing witness to the devastating quake that shook Japan's second largest industrial and seafaring hub nearly eight

months ago. The quake not only killed more than 5,000 people and maimed thousands more also overturned the very way of living in this city of two million people.

Thousands continue to live in prefabricated caravans provided by the authorities, waiting for their turn - which may take years - to go back to proper homes. Many remain in hospitals, undergoing continued treatment for injuries suffered in the quake that struck at 5.45 a.m. on Jan.

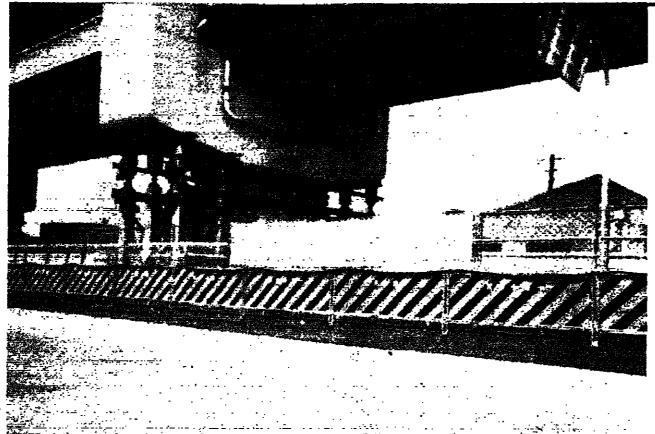
Erected in a park right in front of Shin-Kobe railway station are a few canvas tents - a stark reminder to anyone who steps off the high-speed Bullet train of the blow that the quake struck at the city in central

Japan. A forlorn atmosphere shrouds Kobe, but that could be deceiving as one gets closer to life in the sprawling port city, given the well-known Japanese will to survive and prosper against all odds.

As one drives into the busy town along the main boulevard, clearly visible are the devastation that the quake left behind.

Thick polythene sheets cover many multi-storied buildings, keeping the busy workers perched on scaffoldings away from the

casual eye. The sixth floor of an



Steel scaffoldings support a pillar to prop up an overpass in quake-hit Kobe (photo by P.V. Vivekanand)

eight-storey building is completely missing; the seventh floor is sitting right on top the fifth, having

crushed the sixth. Almost every concrete pillar in the typical superstructure that serves as the key long-haul motor highway 30 metres from the ground has deep groves around it in Kobe City, exposing the steel skeleton inside. The highway is no longer operative, and the pillars are now surrounded with supporting steel structures, just in case. It could take years before the highway could be declared safe

At dozens of spots, the elevated road structure, at a lower level than the highway, stops high in the air,

for transport.

with the next section dozens of metres ahead with nothing between them.

In a housing suburb a couple of kilometres from the city centre, prefabricated houses have mushroomed amid the charred mass of what used to be wooden buildings that were set ablaze by leaking gas pipelines after the quake.

Many of the concrete buildings look undamaged, but residents say they were all declared unsafe because of deep-running cracks in

Had the quake struck an hour later, residents say, the human loss would have been unmeasurable simply because people would have started on their way to

No accurate estimates are

available for the losses that Kobe suffered and is continuing to suffer as direct and indirect results of the quake, which flattened dozens of supposedly quake-proof buildings as well as thousands of traditional cone-shaped wooden homes that are uniquely Japanese,

The tremblor also crippled the main port of Kobe, once a key centre for transit cargo in the Far East with perhaps the most modern loading and unloading facilities in the world. Today, a handful of ships dock at the port, instead of the hundreds that used to wait in anchor.

dations that run deep into the water appear to have remained unshaken.

are missing from the huge

sign that once proudly read

"Kobe Port" at the entrance

to the port. Most of the

massive heavy-duty cranes

Cargo hangars on dozens

of wharves have been shat-

tered. Windows and roofs

have been blown off, but

the concrete and steel foun-

are bent out of shape.

Local residents say that most of the traffic that Kobe used to handle is now diverted to other Japanese ports as well as ports in Korea across the Sea of Japan, depriving Kobe of the millions of dollars it used to collect for transit The letters "o" and "P" storage. But the local

facility open, if only to ensure that port workers who represent a large seg-ment of Kobe's population are not deprived of a living. An amusement park just

authorities have kept the

outside the port has escaped unscathed from the quake, but it no longer hosts anyone simply because the sole elevated access road has been severely damaged.

Despite the gloom and sadness that set in as one takes stock of the devastation the city suffered, life continues as usual in Kobe.

Basement restaurants and shopping malls are crowded, with customers lining up two and three deep outside, many reading books and newspapers while others chatter away. Youngsters and elders alike are busy at "pachinko" parlours — a perennial feature of every Japanese city, town and village - playing pinball machines against deafening disco music. It is no direct gambling since winnings are given out in gift coupons of famous stores. Nonetheless, millions of yen are spent at the machines every day, and the lucky few convert the coupons into cash at the

designated stores. In the meantime, problems are looming for the thousands housed in temporary shelters in schools in Kobe. Many Kobe students missed most of the last scholastic year, and the local authorities are under pressure to reopen the schools on schedule in Sep-

tember. But where would be the homeless go from the schoolrooms? It is a question that eludes a clear answer. The central government and other local governments have sent a lot of aid to Kobe, but it is not



A key road running parallel to the port split open by the Jan. 17 quake (photo by P.V. Vivekanand)

simply enough to meet the massive need for housing.

Residents of two-room air-conditioned caravans on a long stretch on a side road running parallel to the port also face a similar problem. The compound is privately owned, and the owners feel eight months have been

enough of waiting to start commercial building on the In the park near the rail

station, many lay sprawled

near their tents on the neat-

uncertain future. However, many are also hopeful that the local authorities would find an answer to their plight sooner of later. Work has resumed in

ly-kept lawn, awaiting an

most of the industries in and around Kobe, another impetus to hopes that normalcy is on its way.

"Kobe is the jewel of Japan," asserts the Japanese escort. "It may be slightly cracked now. But the cracks will be sealed soon

Massive refugee exodus under way

ports of attacks on refugees. The refugees exodus followed the three-day Croatian offensive that retook threequarters of the territory seized by Serb rebels in a 1991 war and formed into a breakaway state called Krajina. There were no estimates of civilian casualties, which

were believed to be high. Croatia's Susak said the offensive ended Monday evening. U.N. officials re-ported little fighting Tuesday in Krajina, a crescent-shaped stretch of territory hugging

northwestern Bosnia. The United Nations said it brokered a ceasefire Tuesday between the Croatian army and rebel Serbs around Topusko. The agreement would give the refugees in the area safe passage to Serbheld northern Bosnia, said Rita Lepage, a U.N. spokes-

But she said the agreement would not be formally signed until evening. A similar agreement Monday broke down when Croatia reneged

on the deal. But even as the Croats and Serbs planned for peace, witnesses reported a huge column of Bosnian Serb fighters heading towards Croatia's battlefields across the northern Serb-held section of Bos-

There were also large-scale Yugoslav army movements through Serbia toward Croatia's eastern border. If the column of tanks were to cross into Croatia it would surely provoke a new, wider

would happen. "It would be normal precaution for Serbia to move troops," Joseph Nye, the assistant secretary of defence for international security-

war. But few expected that

affairs, said in Washington. While refusing to help rebel Serbs elsewhere, Serbdominated Yugoslavia might be ready to come to the aid of rebels holding the last slab of Croatian land in far eastern Croatia, which directly bor-

ders Serbia. That area was not targetted in Croatia's three-day military offensive, which concentrated on land south of Zag-

Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic said his country had no immediate plans to try to regain the eastern sector. Meanwhile some Western nations expressed surprise Tuesday that Russia had not consulted the rest of the contact group before announcing a new peace plan for the former Yugoslavia, a

Western diplomat said. President Boris Yeltsin announced Monday that he wanted to host a meeting between Croatian President

Franjo Tudjman and Serbian aimed at reaching a pact to end fighting in ex-

Yugoslavia. The proposed Serbo-Croat summit aims "to end fighting, enforce respect for the rights of the populations on the ground, prevent attacks against U.N. personnel, and find a global political solution," foreign ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin told a weekly press briefing

Tuesday. Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Igor Ivanov presented the outline of this plan Tuesday to diplomatic representatives of the other contact group member countries - Britain, France, Germany

and the United States. During this meeting some Western diplomats "were surprised that the contact group had not been directly associated with the initiative," a Western diplomat

said, requesting anonymity. The diplomat did not specify which country or countries had been critical. Tudjman, for his part, has

accepted in principle such a meeting, the Russian ambassador in Zagreb was quoted by Itar-Tass agency as saying. But no official confirmation of the report was available from the Croatian side.

Serbia's Milosevic, who has special ties with Moscow. has not yet replied to the

operations for Hamas and

In Damascus, Hamas called on Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to take to the streets on Friday to demand the release of Mr.

the U.S. authorities' detention of Mr. Abu Marzouk.

complained that money sent in the past had been diverted to non-military uses.

Abu Marzouk. In a statement faxed to Reuters, Hamas urged Palestinians to "denounce"

Iraq demands return of planes

(Continued from page 1)

as demanded by Iraq. He said Iraq's declaration on its germ warfare programme contained information problems, but his commission needed to see whether Iraqi tion of all biological weapons

were truc. President Saddam, in an address to the nation last

A team of international arrive in Baghdad soon as part of the U.N.'s verification activities. Mr. Ekeus said he

Israel, PLO agree on timetable

Jewish settler in a mosque. It poses problems for negotiators since 450 Jewish settlers live among the town's 110,000 Palestinian residents.

Despite the progress, neither leader would say when they hoped to conclude a deal. Still to be resolved are disputes over sharing of water and electricity and security arrangements for Jewish

Mr. Peres told Israel Radio' Tuesday security was a key issue. "We are not prepared for any compromises on security," he said.

Water promises to be particularly troublesome. The Palestinians want more say over the use of the West Bank's water. Israel wants to keep control until a final agreement is reached, since the area supplies 40 per cent

of the water used by Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is also under increasing attack from the right-wing opposition about giving up any of the West Bank. Jewish settlers there have been holding almost daily demonstrations against

Mr. Peres lashed out at the settlers' protests, saying if they wanted to change policy they should do it through parliament.

"I am not coming to negotiations with Arafat with the onus of the settlers," he said. "It is our matter and not On Tuesday, settlers

blocked 40 roads across Israel during the evening rush hour as part of their campaign to block the spread of Palestinian self-rule, police chief Assaf Hefetz said.

Dozens of settlers were detained when police moved in to drag them away from traffic. Many continued their protest on the roadside. Among those detained was kilometres.

Moshe Feiglin, head of a radical minority group called "This is our country" which has urged settlers to transform their passive resistance campaign against autonomy into real civil disobedience starting with the road blocks.

The group also called for 30 new settlements to be built on the West Bank as symbols of resistance to Palestinian Mr. Hefetz earlier warned that police would use force to

from paralysing the country.

"We shall not permit the blocking of roads and we shall instigate legal proceedings against organisers of such road blocks and those.

who participate," he told reporters. He said he had ordered district police commanders "to clear any roads that are blocked using all legal means

at their disposal.' Mainstream settler leaders launched a new offensive Monday to try to scupper the negotiations between Israel

and the PLO. But their occupation of two hills on the West Bank made little impact and only a small number of activists remained

on the site on Tuesday. Representatives of the 130,000 Israelis living on the West Bank were to meet Prime Minister Rabin later Tuesday to discuss their grievances.

Mr. Rabin met a delega-

tion of settlers on Friday but rejected their demand to halt the autonomy negotiations. About 200 protesters, including dozens of orthodox Jews in traditional dress, scuffled with police and

blocked the main Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway near Ben Gurion international airport for about 20 minutes Tuesday burning tyres and plastic barricades. Police cleared the highway but protesters sporadically pushed the barricades back into the road.

Other demonstrators caused traffic jams in more than 20 places, including Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. At least 50 people were de-

The effort to broaden the protests from the occupied West Bank, where about three per cent of Israel's Jewish population live, to Israel risked alienating hundreds of people trapped in traffic jams that backed up for

"They won't gain my support by holding me up like this," said Ninun Schichrol, a doctor caught in the traffic jam. "They should do it somewhere else."

In Beit Ummar, Palestinians took back land seized in a campaign by Jewish settlers, witnesses said More than 300 Palestinians

from Beit Ummar village south of Jerusalem used 15 tractors to destroy a fence settlers placed around their land this week. No settlers prevent right-wing militants

Now, we are back on our land. We will not let the landowner Zreiq Abu

Ayyash, 56.
"We hear about peace, but on the ground we see settlers taking over our land. I don't want to read about peace in the newspapers. I want to see it on the ground," said Mr.

Abu Avyash. In another development, the Palestinian National Authority has asked Israel to extradite an Israeli Shin Bet secret police officer suspected of helping kill a militant leader in self-ruled Gaza last year, Israeli security

sources said. They said the request to hand over Avraham Rahmani was made on Sunday at a meeting between the head of Palestinian Justice Minister Freih Abu Medeen and Israeli Justice Minister David

Israeli justice ministry officials told Reuters Mr. Libai had received an extradition request and that he told Palestinian officials he would respond to it at another meet-

ing next week but they gave no details of the request. Palestinian sources said Rahmani was named by four Gazans detained in connection with the assassination in November last year of Hani Abed, a leader of the Islamic Jihad group killed when his booby-trapped car exploded. Israel has never acknowledged responsibility for

Abed's killing.

Israel is demanding that the Palestinian Authority hand over 18 Arabs suspected of carrying out attacks against Israelis.

Shetreet: Jews should be allowed to pray

(Continued from page 1)

. We have never dealt with the Israeli religious ministry since the occupation began and we will not.

"Al Aqsa is an Islamic mosque by virtue of God and not by virtue of human beings." Mr. Husseini said. The Israeli supreme court

ordered police to allow

groups of Jews to enter the compound on Sunday. But the court gave police the right to seal off the area if they feared "uncontrollable

Judge renews Carlos detention order

PARIS (AFP) — A judge on Tuesday renewed the detention order keeping Carlos the Jackal in jail, 12 months after it was originally issued, judicial officials said Tuesday. Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, alias Carlos, was arrested on Aug. 15 last year in Khartoum, and extradited to Paris to stand trial on a number of terrorist attacks in the 1980s. His official detention order was issued the following day by Magistrate Jean-Louis Bruguiere. It was renewed on Tuesday, a week ahead of its formal expiration, by Judge Jean-Francois Ricard. He was originally charged and held in connection with the April 1982 Rue Marbeuf bombing outside an Arab newspaper office which killed one person and injured 63. Over the last year Carlos, the world's most wanted man before his arrest last year, has been formally charged in connection with a number of other attacks which left a dozen people dead in all. He had already been convicted and jailed for life in absentia in 1992 for the 1975 killing of two French policemen. Under French criminal law, a suspect can be detained for up to a year after which a

new detention order is required. Imam given new expulsion order in France

MONTBELIARD, France (AFP) - A hardline Turkish imam was jailed for two months Tuesday and banned from French soil for three years after defying a previous expulsion order from France, judicial sources said. Kasim Unal, formerly the imam of the mosque at Sochauz, eastern France, was arrested last month after sneaking back into the country in breach of an expulsion order issued a year ago. In the new case prosecutors had urged that he be jailed for three to five years and banned from France for three years. Unal, whose real name is Abdul Rahman Ciftcioglu, was expelled to Turkey last August for making 'public threats... calling for a violent act against the incumbent Turkish prime minister," Tansu Ciller. He was held in prison for several months by Turkish authorities before being released and permitted to leave Turkey.

5,000 arrested in Libya since June clashes

CAIRO (AFP) - Five thousand people have been arrested in Libya since clashes that broke out in June between Islamists and police in the northeast city of Benghazi, the Arab daily Ash-Sharq Al Awsat reported on Tuesday. The paper cited "well-informed" Libyan sources but did not specify the affiliation of the arrested nor where the arrests occurred. Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi is on a tour of the Burqa region, east of Tripoli on the Mediterranean coast, which he started several days ago with a visit to Benghazi, the paper said. Troubles broke out in June when police launched a series of raids against suspected Islamists in and around Benghazi, Western diplomats in Tripoli said. The Arab daily Al Hayat said on July 11 that four policemen and three Muslim fundamentalists were killed in the incidents. In late July, Colonel Qadhafi stepped up his verbal attacks on Islamists, calling them the "shame of Arab nationalism" and an example of

the "failure and loss" of the Arab nation. Militiamen stage manoeuvres in Tehran

TEHRAN (AFP) - Thousands of volunteer Islamic militiamen began urban warfare exercises in southwestern Tehran on Tuesday, newspapers reported here. The six-day manoeuvres are being staged in the districts of Karaj, Savoshbolagh, Robat-Karim and Shahriar, the last two being the scene of violent riots in early April which left several people dead and dozens injured. The war games. organised by the elite force the Revolutionary Guards, are aimed at displaying the militia force's ability to "ensure law and order," the newspapers said. The volunteers are krouped in the elite anti-riot "Ashura Brigades," which were created in 1993 after riots hit several Iranian cities.

Charges filed against Abu Marzouk

(Continued from page 1) years. He has spoken out

frequently in support of

Hamas, which President Bill Clinton has listed as a "terrorist" organisation. The complaint unsealed Tuesday blames Hamas for the killings of at least 79 Israeli and foreign civilians and 40 military or security personnel since January 1989, and the injury of an additional 188 civilians and 98 military or security work-

Abu Marzouk is suspected of having direct involvement. Specifically, the complaint accuses Mr. Abu Marzouk of transferring \$100,000 in 1989 to Hamas while visiting Gaza to reorganise the group's infrastructure after a series of

ers. It does not specify how

many of those attacks Mr.

Thereafter, his activity increased," the complaint said. It said the most significant information against Mr. Abu month, gave warning that soon.

Marzouk came from Hamas member Mohammad Al Hamid Khalil Salah, who

lived in the United States until he was arrested entering Israel in early 1993. Mr. Salah has since pleaded guilty to charges arising from Hamas activity and was sentenced to five years in

prison, the complaint said. It said Mr. Abu Marzouk gave another \$100,000 in August 1992 to finance military

> his commission's activities in the country if he failed to

close investigations into its helpful to resolve remaining statements about the destruc- .arms experts is expected to

germ warfare file by the end of August.

Iraq would halt cooperation with Mr. Ekeus and suspend

would also return to Baghdad

Iraqi economy in wretched shape, Germans say | U.S. consumer gets

Iraq's economy is in such a shambles that even after the be able to rebuild and restore business links with the West, Germans who visited Iraq

said Mnoday. Iraq's economic infrastructure has all but collapsed after five years of U.N. sanctions, which coupled with war damage have plunged the country back into "preindustrial age," according to

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait lost

over one billion barrels of oil

or one per cent of its sole

natural resource in 1991 Gulf

war oil fires, but its huge

reservoirs appear to have

escaped lasting damage, a

U.S. embassy report issued

The Gulf state's oil indus-

try now needs to settle unre-

solved questions about poli-

tical support, foreign involve-

ment and tender procedures

as it starts a new phase of

Tuesday said.

growth, it said.

German officials said there appeared to be moves afoot to loosen the embargo, with U.N. embargo is lifted. Iraq now able to purchase Baghdad will only gradually equipment for agriculture. power generation and sewage treatment as "humanitarian

However, U.S. President Clinton has said the United States wouldn't allow lifting of the oil sale ban, the centrepiece of the embargo, until Iraq committed itself to fundamental change in foreign policy — unlikely while Sad-dam Hussein is in charge.

lion barrels, Kuwait is still

one of the world's oil giants,"

an embassy survey of the oil

sector said, echoing loss esti-

mates made by other

analysts.
"While many of the scars

will never be erased, recon-

struction of the oil sector is

largely completed. Kuwait

has now entered the next

phase of its development as a

major force in the world oil

industry," the survey added.

would offer many opportuni-

It said expansion plans

Even if the embargo were lifted, problems in restructuring Iraq's enormous debt are likely to slow Western trade and investment, said Peter Jungen of the Near and Middle east Association, a business lobbying group.

"There won't be a big bang," he said, adding that Iraq "runs the risk of having a terrible awakening when the embargo is lifted and there are expectations in the population that can't im-mediately be fulfilled."

Kuwait could resolve political

The report said Kuwait's

main fields lost 1.074 billion

barrels during the seven

months of fires, leaving about

96 billion barrels of recover-

Kuwait third behind Saudi

Arabia and Iraq in size of

Increased water content in

the oil after the war did not

appear to have been caused

by long term damage to re-

and commercial issues.

visited Iraq Aug. 1-3 in coordination with the German government to discuss restoring German business with Iraq after the embargo is lifted. They met with Deputy Premier Tareq Aziz, Oil Minister Amir Rashid and

Germany's businesses. burned by revelations that Germans sold chemicals to Iraq that were used in weapons, have moved more cautiously than the French and Americans in discussing

enormous — equal to almost

30 years of Kuwaiti consump-

tion at current rates — it

appears the country's reser-

voirs suffered must less dam-

age than was once feared,"

the end of a seven-month

occupation set over 600 well-

heads on fire, caused more

than 70 to gush oil wildly and

damaged at least 100 others

in other ways. They also blew

up some refineries and

bours, which have larger

domestic markets and lower

soaring wage and business costs could take a toll on the

economy, expected to grow

at an average rate of seven

per cent to 2000 after back-

to-back 10.1 per cent growth

Analysts are worried that

Iraqi troops retreating at

the report said.

gathering centres.

Other officials.

the renewal of trade with Iraq.

But ultimately, financial rather than political considerations will determine the pace of trade with Iraq, Mr. Jungen said

Battered by war damage and a lack of spare parts. Iraq's oil capacity is less than one million barrels per day (b/d) down from a pre-war OPEC quota of 3.4 million b/d, said Otto Plassmann. director of the Near and Middle Fast Association.

estimates the cost of losses

from oil ignited or spilled at

Plenty of challenges re-

main, the report said, includ-

ing the task of persuading

parliament to continue to

fund further expansion of

production capacity. Kuwait

also had to decide what role.

if any, foreign oil companies

should play in shoring up its

position in a competitive

"Finally... the country de-

sperately needs to develop a

\$50 billion.

world market.

fraq's western debts, including interest, are estimated at about \$60 billion, Mr. Jungen said. Irad apparently faces some \$100 billion in reparations claims.

Debt and reparation payments will bite into the income Iraq earns from its reduced oil capacity, he said,

Germany was Iraq's biggest non-military trade partner in Europe before the war, with about \$2.5 billion in trade annually.

Kuwait plans to spend \$15

billion to raise capacity to 3.5

million barrels per day (b/d) by the year 3005 from almost

2.5 million at present, among

Oilmen are examining

ways of developing wells with foreigners' capital and tech-

nical expertise in return for

some form of participation.

But diplomats say slow

said Irene Tang. an econom-

ist with Paribas Capital Mar-

While outside critics scoff

at Singapore's centralised

political systems and tough

laws, the government says

these have ensured rapid

progress and kept the mul-

tiracial society intact for the

mixed signals, advice Part of the explanation is

WASHINGTON (R) - U.S. policymakers and Wall Street economists seem almost schizoid when they fuss and fume about the American consum-

They criticise the crowds at malls and auto dealerships for not saving more and adding to the national rainyday fund, while at the same time they fear the U.S. economy will go into a tailspin if the spending spree actually slows.
"If the consumer were to

suddenly start saving substantially more, it would push the economy straight into recession," says Norwest Corp. economist Sung Wong Sohn. David Jones of Aubrey G.

Lanston and Co. agrees. 'Those who think they should start saving a lot more right now would be horrified if they actually did so," he

other projects. It has an Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries allocation of 2.0 million b/d. Americans are often lambasted by policymakers for saving substantially less than people in other industrial economies and even less than citizens in some emerging economies.

In simple terms, lower savings rates mean there is less money for investment which helps to raise productivity, wages and the standard of living and, by definition, economic growth.

The most recent statistics show that the U.S. savings rate in June was 4.1 per cent. the same as in May and slightly lower than the 4.2 per

cent in April. Japan and Germany, tough U.S. competitors in the trade arena, have savings rates that are at least three times as high, while Singapore and l'aiwan, for instance, have annual savings levels of 40 per cent, according to

that the United States has a relatively strong safety net for its citizens, including social security and the medicare health system — but this is

only a small part of the story. In many ways, the American tax system rewards consumption and penalises savings — exactly the opposite of the approach taken by many countries overseas,

analysts say. The United States has no national sales tax as such and taxes gasoline far less than most other countries, particularly in Europe and Japan.
It also does not have a

value added tax, a kind of hidden cost added as products wind their way to the manufacturing process from raw material to finished product, that adds to the tax base while discouraging sumption.

In addition, the interest paid on money borrowed to buy a house is tax-deductible. boon many U.S. home-

buyers see as a basic right.
While no one expects maor tax changes this year. there are moves afoot on Capital Hill to give the saver a helping hand, making the tax system a friend of the

frugal.
These issues are being discussed against a background of efforts to try at long last to make the United States government to live within its means, bringing the budget into balance over seven or 10 years, depending on the plan.

At the same time, the U.S. economy seems to be turning. stronger after flirting with recession as the consumer again shows a willingness. both to spend and build up more debt.

Auto sales are up, partly thanks to sales incentives, and retailers have boosted sales thanks to summer discounts.

Kuwait has spent \$2.5 bildecision-making on some Despite the oil lost more streamlined, transpa-"While the volume of oil lion in restoring production. construction contracts could through the blowouts, estifirms and increase Kuwait's rent process for the soliciting lost through the blowouts was mated at more than one bil- role in world oil provided Another Western embassy and awarding bids for major Singapore turns 30, braces itself for more competition

War fires cost Kuwait 1b barrels of oil — U.S. embassy

SINGAPORE (AFP) -Singapore celebrates 30 years of nationhood Wednesday amid warnings that the prosperous island state's economy will grow at a slower pace and face greater competition from its less affluent neighbours.

The bigger challenge for the nation, already bugged by increasing business costs and higher wages, will be its for-

military government has de-

ers in hopes of slashing huge

monthly salary bills in the

face of economic down-turn.

carrying out what is officially

described as "staff (person-

nel) audit" to flush out fake

or non-existent workers in

the 300,000-strong civil ser-

and International Monetary

The exercise, which started

39 Understanding

40 Capital on the

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41 Spawn

45 Cattail

......ave said is blo-

The federal government is

officials here have said.

mal "graduation" to year, government leaders and

In the run-up to National Day, the republic of fewer than three million people has been basking in a celebration of its economic success, tempered by a sense of caution. We cannot take the good life for granted. The mana-

gers and workers in our

last month in all government

ministries and agencies, re-

auires workers to the physi-

cally present during a veri-

fication exercise, with

credentials such as appoint-

ment letters, letters of prom-

otion and academic qualifica-

exercise, some ministries are

already requiring the discov-

ery of thousands of "ghost"

workers. For example, the federal ministry of works

announced here that it disco-

vered more than 3,000 people

who had been receiving salar-

of works

Less than a week into the

tions in hand.

Nigeria wages war on 'ghost' workers

neighbouring countries are working just as hard and are as smart as we are," said Trade and Industry Minister Yeo Cheow Tong. "And their salaries are less than one-third to one-quarter of

Mr. yeo warned at the weekend that Singapore may lost its position as a magnet for foreign investors to its South East Asian neigh-

And the Kaduna state gov-

ernment, in northern Niger-

ia, announced this week that

it had discovered about 4,000

'ghost' secondary school

teachers. The state only has

about 8,000 secondary school

In the eastern state of Enu-

gu, more than 1,000 workers

face sacking because they are

either medically unfit or have

been found to have de-

frauded the government.

some by receiving pay in two different ministries of the

state government.

ies for no work.

rates last year and in 1993. ·Local industries are concerned their competitive edge could be blunted by wages that rose seven to eight per cent last year on a 10 per cent appreciation of the Singapore dollar, which has risen a

THE BETTER HALF

this year against the U.S. dollar.

Business costs rose by 5.6 per cent in the first quarter of 1995 compared with 1.9 per cent in the previous quarter. while labour productivity growth slackened to 2.8 per cent from 3.8 per cent, official statistics showed.

"As Malaysia, Thailand and other neighbouring countries feverishly develop their own service industries to check their deteriorating services account deficit, Singapore will surely be in for further five per cent so far some good competition."

By Glasbergen

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form KAYWG MUTON TEENIC HANGING ADDRESSE CREATES THIS KIND OF EXPERIENCE LOVEUM

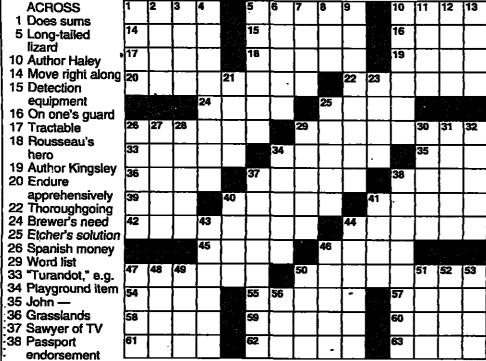
"My dog is 2 years old. That's 14 in dog years. How come teenage dogs don't get pimples?"

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as sug-gested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here : (Answers tomorrow Jumbles: VIGIL SWAMP ENCAMP ASTRAY What the King's trumpet-playing brother

became - THE PRINCE OF WAILS

THE Daily Crossword by CF Murray



O 1995 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

5 Leaf interstice 6 Complete range 7 Mine entrance 8 — de mer 9 Three digits for

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23 Ascend 25 Dress style 26 Lively dance 27 Fencing swords 60 Breton or Briton 28 Connery and Penn

61 Markdown event 29 Endocrine, e.g. 30 River of Italy "-- Well That ... " '31 Bouquet flowers 32 Irish author

34 Fathered Barmen?: abbr. 37 Hated 38 Actress Hamel 40 Engendered 41 A Reynolds

43 Prediction · 44 Tableware 46 Flat finish 47 Heat measures: abbr.

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ITS TRADER NAUGHTYMARIETTA HAULDRAIN ELSEEDICT RUES RANKS NAYS RANKS

Puzzle solved:

49 Israeli airline 50 — shark 51 Ice skating feat 52 Grain grinder

56 One - kind

Peanuts









Andy Capp



Mutt'n Jeff



FORECAST FOR WEDNES-DAY, AUGUST 9, 1995

HOROSCOPE

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are wisely focusing on financial and property matters and can add to personal assets. Relieve tensions

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Others may oppose your personal aims but be diplomatic. Outsiders could give you trouble, but your mate can make you happy. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Plan today how to replace difficult newcomers to gain more tranquility and avoid any schemes be perpetrated

at whatever is of a practical nature and forget emotional desires which could bring you trouble. Be charming.

day where your career is con-cerned, but this will be for the best. Look for more fascinating interests.

time partner could take leave of you today, but other. assoicates soon come into your life for greater progress. LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Charming an important person in the outside

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Try not to have an altercation today with one who does not agree with ideas you have, and then fellow associates will be cooperative.

22 to December 21) Rid yourself today of antiquated ideas and systems and get your existence on a more streamlined basis.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Steer clear of that extravagance today where enterainment is concernd and be happy within

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Doing something today which others will not like at home could bring

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Much care in motion and in speech should be exercised today. Look about you tonight, and see how you

Birthstone of August: Peri-dot — Golden Quartz

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оп уоп. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get busy today

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Changes may take place to-

VIRGO: (August 22 to. September 22) Some longworld is wise today, but avoid a problematical affairs of a practical nature.

SAGITTARIUS: (November

your family circle.

trouble for you. Do some visiting of friends and neigh-

can improve your home.

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FOR WEDNES.

GUST 9, 1995

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AUGUST 9, 19%

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being put on a draft law for a

"Food Control Corporation. According to the minister of health, a special committee has laid down the basis for the corporation with the help of international experts from the World Health Organisation. The aim of the corporation was to supervise all types of food and the usage of insecticides and hormones, to tighten control over all food-related matters and to end the multiple controls over food safety. The munister said the corporation, if it is successful, would be independent with a size and budget larger than the Ministry of Health. The preliminary suggestion is to have the ministry of health head the corporation to give it a push at the beginning but it will later be totally independent and related only to the prime minister (Al Ra'i).

소소 THE JORDAN Himeh Mineral Company is offering its shareholders, registered on March 12, 1995, the opportunity to buy more shares not exceeding 50 per cent of their equity as of the above mentioned date. The number of shares put for private subscription is 58,017 at JD 2 per share being JD1 per value and JD I premium. Offer ends Aug. 31, 1995 (Al

☆☆ THE committee probing the unjustified high exports." of Jordanian shirts to the U.S. market has found that Jordanian certificates of oriports of Chinese shirts to the U.S. The forgeries took place at the free zones of Abu Dhabi and Oman. The U.S. imposed a quota on Jordanian exports of shirts after discovering that normal annual sales of about \$12 million had shot up to nearly \$40 million (Al Aswaq).

☆☆ THE FIRST Jordanian company for hotel management and tourism marketing has been registered under the name Med Hotels Group. The company aims at managing and owing hotels, preparing and training hotel management cadres, managing and setting up fast food restaurants, establishing and participating touristic projects as well as establishing clubs and touristic cities. These activities will be carried out in cooperation with other institutions or in agreement to manage hotels and restaurants in addition to training and preparing hotel cadres. Munther Saudi is vice-chairman of the board of directors (Al Ra'i).

☆☆ HAVING PAID JD 1.4 million in a final settlement to Petra Bank (under liquidation), the Jordan Medical Corporation (JMC) has improved its financial standing. with shareholders' equity becoming 29 per cent after having been negative in 1993. However, the corporation was unable to post a profit last year despite recording JD 929,286 of sales, 60 per cent higher than the figure for 1993, JMC attributed the loss to not being able to operate its factory at full capacity and to the total JD 2.66 million indebtedness to Petra Bank until July 31,1994 when the final settlement was reached with partial relief coming from credit facilities obtained from the Amman Bank for Investment. The company, currently striving to produce 35 million syringes, has conducted studies to introduce new medical products and found foreign parties willing to participate in its endeavours (Al Dustour)

A⇔ ACCORDING TO Such Bamieh, a senior official at the Palestinian Ministry of Economy and Trade, the Palestinian Authority has issued import licences for \$19 million to Palestinian traders to import Jordanian pro-

Toshiba, IBM to invest \$1.2b on advanced chip plant in U.S.

Toshiba Corp. and International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) announced Tuesday plans to invest \$1.2 billion on an advanced nextgeneration semiconductor plant in the United States.

"We will establish the most-advanced production plant to lead the industry,' Toshiba Vice President Masanobu Ohyama told a news conference.

The two companies said they would set up an equallyowned venture by the end of the year, with the aim of launching production of 64megahit dynamic random access memory (DRAM) chips in Virginia in late 1997. DRAM chips are used in

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan's computers, multi-media products and informationprocessing equipment.

> Construction of a new plant in Manassas, where IBM already owns a site, is scheduled to start in January next year and the joint venture will initially employ about 700 people, eventually rising to 1,200.

> The new venture will be the second between the two companies, which already produce liquid crystal displays at a joint venture in

The Japanese electrical machinery giant said the new plant would strengthen its competitiveness and provide IBM with chip supplies at a

time of continued strong de- executive in charge of the mand. Global demand for DRAM chips is expected to rise from an estimated \$23 billion this year to \$39 billion next year.

Although the plant will be Toshiba's first comprehensive memory production base overseas, Toshiba and IBM have for several years been jointly developing nextgeneration chips in the United States with Germany's

Siemens A.G.

for Toshiba's overseas production," Mr. Ohyama said. denying that Siemens would be involved in the latest

Koichi Suzuki, the Toshiba

"IBM is the best partner

company's semiconductor group, said the United States was the biggest DRAM market and had a wellestablished infrastructure such as power and water sup-

Jupan's biggest chipmaker, NEC Corp., and South Ko-rean rival Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. are already producing 64-megabit DRAM chips.

The new plant will use 0.35 micron (one millionth of a metre) technology and the wafers will be shipped to Toshiba and IBM for final

Production of eight-inch wafers is estimated at more

than 27,000 units a month by the time the plant is in full operation in 1999. Marketing will be conducted separately by the two companies.

Michael Attardo, general manager of IBM's microelectronics division, said the announcement was an "important part of IBM's plans to further enhance its position as a major producer of leading-edge semiconductor

We are committed to

products.

meeting current and future demands of our merchant and internal customers," he said.

A Toshiba official said the joint venture marked the beginning of its plan to shift a third of its semiconductor fabrication offshore.

Toshiba plans to conduct final assembly of most of the semiconductors at its Malaysian unity," the official said. IBM Japan Vice President

Kiyoji Kishida said IBM also

ANDMAN FINANCIAL MARKET HOUSING SANK CENTER ANDMAN - SHMEISANI TELEPRONE: 607171 / 607179 ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUNEDAY 08/0

assembly of chips offshore. mostly in Germany, France and South East Asia. The Virginia plant to be

planned to conduct final

used by the joint venture has been idle since 1991, when IBM sold its federal system division and microelectronics division to Loral Corp., Mr. Kishida said.

Toshiba said the name of the joint venture and the amount of capital involved have yet to be decided.

08/08/1995

Three large Chinese firms declared bankrupt

BEIJING (AFP) - Three major Chinese state-run firms, set up as long as 40 years ago, have been declared bankrupt with debts totalling tens of millions of dollars, the Xinhua news agency said Tuesday.

The Fujian Electronic Computer Co., until recently one of the top 10 industrial companies in the eastern province of Fujian, was formally declared bankrupt July 27 with debts of 142.3 million

yuan (\$17 million). At the same time, Xinhua announced an intermediate court in the southern province of Guangdong had issued bankruptcy papers for two major state-run firms set up nearly 40 years ago, the Shantou Sodium Hydrosulphate Factory and the Shantou Huaqiao Rubber Plant.

The 30-year-old Fujian company, once famous for its "Lark" brand computers, employed around 1,000 people and in the early 1980s posted annual net profits of \$10 million, before its fortunes took a sharp downturn. The provincial government

Cairo Amman Bank

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) - Following are the buying and selling

rates for leading world currencies and gold against the

dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and

1.4092/02

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Cypriot Pound

bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling

One U.S. dollar 1.3550/60

One ounce of gold \$384.40/384.70

European Currency Unit

European Carreny Unit

has set up a special group to deal with the case "since the debt involved is huge and the number of people to be reset-tled is too large," Kinhua

The two Guangdong firms

— both established in 1956 had long been suffering heavy losses and were unable to continue operations or repay their debts. The hydrosulphate plant

had been forced to suspend operations in 1993, while the rubber factory had suffered an overall loss of 21.35 million yuan (\$2.54 million) since 1983.

A court-appointed team has begun to clear the accounts of the two plants, Xinhua said, without specifying how many workers had been laid off.

Wary of the social consequences of mass unemployment, the Chinese government has been treading very warily with its bankruptcy experiments, restricting them to areas where redundant workers have a better chance of finding new employment. Jordan Times

Tubyu

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Windows 95 spurs calls to arms for Microsoft competition

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The computer world has put out a call to arms: Apple is slicing prices, IBM forging alliances and the smaller firms carving out their niches to meet Microsoft's Windows 95 due out later this month.

Aug. 24 is high-tech D-Day for Microsoft, the date the world's leading personal computer software maker unleashes the latest version of its popular Windows system on the market.

From Silicon Valley to Wall Street, many analysts see Windows 95 as the death knell for Microsoft's leading rivals, Apple's MacOS and IBM's OS-2. From a technological

standpoint, Windows 95 is nothing revolutionary. according to specialists. But contrary to previous Windows editions, the soft-

ware makes it easy to use PCs, giving the general public greater access to the machines. Ironically the very success of Windows 95 is the fact that

it lets the PC copy its Apple

competition.

'Windows 95 offers big improvements: It's more like a Mac," said Walter Mossberg in the Wall Street Journal. Apple, which features an ___ easy to-use icon and mouse clickson system, popularised the personal computer in the 1970s. But Apple wanted the whole pie and refused to

allow other companies to clone its systems. That decision cost the com-

PC clones hit the market in 1981, the scales began to tip against Apple. Apple watched its sales share shrivel, accounting for only eight per cent of world-wide sales last

Through this shift Microsoft came up the big winner with its DOS and Windows software becoming the brains behind the IBM clones. The result: Microsoft systems drive nearly 80 per cent of the world's 100 million PCs.

By miming its rivals, Windows 95 has struck at their ace in the hole: Their technological advances.

Coupling high-tech breakthroughs with the marketing strength of Compaq. Packard Bell and all the other IBM cloners has led to a tidal wave in worldwide sales.

Industry watchers predict Windows 95 will sell in the tens of millions -- 30 million from now until the end of the year, say the most optimistic. Such an onslaught would relegate competitors to spe-

cialised niches, according to some studies. IBM will be forced to halt developing OS-2 next January, according to a study by Dataquest. The group predicted the system would be extinct by 1999.

By that time Windows 95 will be running on 91 per cent of the existing PCs and Macintosh will not account for more than six per cent.

In 1994, Windows accounted for 63 per cent of the world market, against 12 pany dearly and when IBM per cent for MacOS.

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Edwards twice breaks world record

Torrence surged away from her great rivals Merlene Ottey and Irina Privalova to win the world 100-metre title while Dan O'Brien won his third decathlon championships in a row and Jonathan Edwards twice broke his triple jump world record.

It wasn't a day for surprises at the World Championships. Torrence, olympic 200 metre champion, was fastest away from the blocks and clocked 10.85 to take her first individual world title while

second place Ottey, the world 200m titlist from Jamaica, collected her 11th medal, a world championships record for either a man or woman. She has two goals, three silvers and six

Ottey's time was 10.94 and Privalova, the European champion from Russia, had 10.96. Coincidentally, it was the same finish order in the semifinal although all three runners then were faster.

You have to raise yourself to another level, when racing Irina and Ottey," Torrence

"I felt like I didn't see Irina ahead of me, I didn't see Ottey ahead and that was a plus. I could concentrate on myself. I didn't know I'd won for sure before I raised my

"The 100 is the glory event -- to be the fastest woman in the world — and I've been working on that since 1987," the 30-year-old American

Another American, Car-lette Guidry, placed fourth in 11.07 but, despite an impressive series of fast times throughout the competition, never looked like challenging the first three.

O'Brien, who totalled a year's best 8,695 points, recovered from a shaky start that left him trailing in second by 107 after three of the 10

Despite failing to win a single discipline outright, the American hauled back the lead with big scores in the 110 hurdles, a 13.78 run, and the pole vault, 5.20 metres, and won, by 206 points, a big victory margin.

Virtually sure of victory, O'Brien jogged his near

O'Brien jogged his way through the final event, the 1,500 metres, and finished ninth in that race in 4:52.52. Edwards Hamalainen of Belarus won the silver with a total of 8,489 and Canada's Mike Smith placed third with

Edwards became the first man to break 18 metres and then the first to 1 and 60 feet. His opening leap of the competition was 18.16 (59 feet 7 inches). In the second round, minutes later, he went even further, 18.29 metres, (60-0

With his first jump, the 29-year-old British jumper beat the 17.98 (59.0) mark he set at Salamanca, Spain, July 18. His leap at the Ulievi stadium was the first world record to be set at the worlds on the third day of competi-

Then he came up with another to surely put the gold medal out of everyone else's reach. After the second round, the second best leap into the final of the longer





Britain's Jonathan Edwards clenchs a fist as he runs in the statdium with his country's flag following his victory in the men's triple jump (AFP photo)

ed 44.91 to win his semifinal.

Greg Haughton ran the fas-test time, 44.70, and finished

well clear of world record

holder Butch Reynolds, who had 45.10. the final is

A championship record

also fell Monday, when Rus-

sia's Irina Stankina clocked

42 minutes 13 seconds to win

the women's 10 kilometres

walk. Elisabetta Perrone of

Italy won the silver and Yele-

na Nikolayeva the Bronze.

The previous championship

record was 42:57 by Russia's

Alina Ivanova set at Tokyo in

Meanwhile, Jackie Joyner-

Kersee flew home to the Un-

ited States after her long

jump flop, leaving behind her world heptathlon title.

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Wednesday.

In the other, Jamaica's

was a wind-aided 17.59 by event, easing up as he clocka's Jerome Romain while Edwards' first two were well inside the 2 metres per second wind limit.

Brian Wellman of Bermuda won the silver with a leap of 17.62 and Romain took the bronze with 17.59. Yoelvis Quesada of Cuba also leaped 17.59 but the Dominican got the medal because he had the better second jump.

Olympic champion Mike Conley of the United States placed seventh with a modest and wind-aided 16.96.

"I didn't think I could do it. I've been petrified for the last three days," Edwards said, "I've had such a good season, but suddenly it could all go wrong, someone could come out and do a really long

Michael Johnson, who is aiming for an unprecedented 200-400m double, cruised

as world titles taken BEIJING (AFP) - Confined vided army will see most of

Ma's army powerless

to barracks. Ma Junren's ditheir world titles disappear in Gothenburg on Wednesday, but they already have their

Ma and his new runners in Dalian and Wang Junxia in Shenyang, will remain divided by more than the miles when they see who takes the women's 1.500 metres and 10,000 metres titles in Sweden on Wednesday.

They will be able to see if their successors are as good. But they claim not to care too much as they have next year's Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia on their minds.

Two years ago in Stuttgart, Wang, Qu Yunxia and Liu Dong reigned supreme — winning the 1,500 metres, 3.000 metres and 10.000 metres — and China became an overnight world athletics power.

In the absence of the Army. China's athletics at the 1995 championships are in danger of coming home without a title. .
Huang Zhihong failed to

retain her title in the women's shot. The walkers who looked good at the World cup in April have also not won a race yet in Gothen-Now their performances

have fallen flat and their notoriety faded. Ma Junren and Wang Junxia, in their separate camps, are at least training again though little news filters out.

After their well-publicised split over what Ma did with the prize money and Mercedes limousines from Stuttgart and other contests. Ma's new runners and Wang and her gang will be bitter rivals for places on the plane to Atlanta.

In Dalian, Ma Junren has come out of hospital where he was being treated for injuries suffered in a car accident and cancer. Though he still has Ou Yunxia, the 1993 world 3.000 metres champion. Ma has assembled a new band of athletes.

In Shenyang, Wang, world record holder over 3,000 metres and 10,000 metres has her own group of runners. including Liu Dong, the 1.500 metres gold medal winner in Stuttgart who was thrown out of Ma's team for wanting a boyfriend and long

Wang says she trains but admits not with the same discipline as under Ma dictatorial regime. That I one reason why she flopped so badly at the national championship this year and did not get a place in the Gothenburg

She wants to launch her own athletics school but retains ambitions of winning an Olympic medal, the only one she has not got in her collec-

Ma has also made Atlanta his target now he is back in action. He did not enter his new generation of runners for the national games saying they were not ready. Few even know their names, but Ma promises they will be competitive for the Olympies. He has thrown down the gauntlet to his former star.

GOREN BRIDGE

THE CASE OF THE

players are not giving

NBA players association isn't giving up just yet on a new labor deal.

up yet

NBA

Facing a midnight deadline for reaching a new collective bargaining agreement or disbanding, the union scheduled an 11th-hour meeting to discuss reopening negotiations with the league.

Union executive director Simon Gourdine said Monday night he expected 20-25 players to come to New York

for the meeting.

Talks with the league broke off Thuesday, with no progress made toward resolv-ing the issue of the luxury tax, a salary cap-tightening mechanism the players staunchly oppose.

The union previously set a deadline of Tuesday midnight for getting a new labor deal. If the deadline passes, union president Buck Williams of the Portland Trail Blazers has said the union will agree to decertify, giving in to the wishes of a group of dissident players led by Michael Jor-dan and Patrick Ewing.

Jordan, Ewing nad other supporters of decertification want to abolish the union in order to press a federal antitrust lawsuit against the

Gourdine said the meeting of union officers, player representatives and other players will be to weight their options and discuss several counterproposals made by the NBA last week.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Kanchelskis to defy United

LONDON (AFP) — Andrei Kanchelskis seemed poised to defy a Manchester I nited order to report for training and stay with Everton here on Monday — despite the break-down of his £5 million (\$7.5 million) transfer. The 26-year-old Ukrainian thought he had ended his four year spell of Old Trafford, which was soured by a public fall-out with manager Alex Ferguson, when he was paraded at Goodison Park as Joe Royle's record signing. But the deal has collapsed after United overlooked a sell-on clause by Kanchelskis' previous club Shakhtyor Donetsk, which entitles them to a circle of the few And Parising P entitles them to a sixth of the fee. And Russian international Kanchelskis, quoted in a national newspaper, said: "It's all been so confusing. I don't know what is happening and I don't know what to say or do."

Agassi could face Sampras in Open tuneup

CINCINNATI, Ohio (AFP) — World number one Andre Agassi and three-time Wimbledon Pete Sampras could meet for the fifth time this year at the ATP Championship here this week. But do not be surprised if two-time defending champion Michael Chang plays a major role in the 1.79 million-dollar tuneup for the U.S. Open, which begins in three weeks at New York. "It's difficult to defend a little. There is just so much pressure on you," said Chang, who has begon Staffer Edbard in the control of the c a little. There is just so much pressure on you, "said Chang, who has beaten Stefan Edberg in the past two finals here and seeks an unprecedented third crown. Agassi and Sampras have split their 16 career meetings. But Agassi has won three of their four matchups this year, the most recent at the Canadian Open finals. "There's a lot of hype when we play each other," Agassi said. "But hype isn't anything unless you back it up. We bring out the best in each other when we play." Sampras beat Agassi at the Indian Wells final, but lost in the Kev Biscavne and Australian Open final, but lost in the Key Biscayne and Australian Open finals as well as at Montreal. Sampras was injured at this stage of last season and could have made up ground in pursuit of Agassi. But the man who replaced him at number one won in Washington and Canada and has instead stretched his advantage.

Gascoigne ready to show Rangers faith

GLASGOW (AFP) - Paul Gascoigne, the £4.3 million (\$6.5 million) England midfielder never appeared in Europe with Newcastle or Tottenham and then missed out twice on UEFA Cup participation with Lazio because of injuries. Yet, on Wednesday night with Rangers, the maverick footballer will enter a path to the multi-million round isolated of the Cartesian and then missed out pound jackpot of the Champions League. And, rubbing shoulders with Gazza will be 25-year-old defender Brian Reid, also taking his Euro baptism after just five games in four years for Rangers. Smith confirmed Gascoigne and Peid are member of an 18 man according to the European Reid are members of an 18-man squad for the European Cup preliminary round first leg against Anorthosis Famagusta at Ibrox on Wednesday night. Both are certain to play, with Gascoigne joining Dane Brian Laudrup and former England striker March Hateley as Smith's three Foreigners while Reid partners Richard Gough and Alan McLaren in a new, three-man defence.

At 15, Williams still developing shots, toughness for pro tour just one of the many matches

MANHATTAN BEACH (AP) — At times, Venus Williams forgot she was in the middle of the third match of a budding pro tennis

She instinctively used her left arm to signal balls in or out, as if she was playing another practice match at home instead of first-round opponent Asa Carlsson in the Acura Classic.

"I couldn't help it, because I'm used to calling my own shots," she laughed. There were other signs that

Williams is still developing the shots and mental toughness needed for the pro tour. The 15-year-old lost her serve five times, including

match point, in a 6-4, 6-1 loss Monday night.
"That's OK. I have a lot of time to work on my serve," Williams said. "The match was important to me, but it's

double-faulting on the second

I'm going to play." Not this year, though. Richard Williams is limit-

ing his daughter to three tournaments in 1995, including next week's Canadian Open and Oakland in October. She won't start playing the tour full time until 1997.

"Right now, we're not thinking about rankings or points or matches or tournaments," she said. "I just need to develop my game more."

Watched carefully by her father and a handful of curious players, Williams displayed powerful groundstrokes and a strong serve in just her second career tournament.

But she never harnessed her power, managing just two breaks of Carlsson's serve and often slugging balls well beyond the baseline. For every down-the-line winner, Williams mis-hit a service return or sent the ball into orbit.

She rarely used her lanky frame to rush the net, despite hitting some solid volleys on the few short balls Carlsson "I'm just 15, and this is just

the beginning of my tennis career. I was a little nervous," Williams said. "I would like to be a serve-andvolleyer, but I also want to have great groundstrokes."
Williams had better results,

in her pro debut in Oakland last year. She beat Shaun Stafford and took Arantxa Sanchez Vicario to three sets before losing in the second

Carlsson's experience as the world's 70th-ranked player showed in her ability to vary shots and move Williams around the court.

Never having seen Williams play. Carlsson wasn't sure what to expect.

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An the mans played over the weekend had been reconstructed by the players. Payson had pored over them for hours and was in the pro-cess of ross-examining some of the bridge stars. On the stand was Carl-The defending attorney fixed a piercing gaze on Jones "Were you sitting East for this deal?" he asked.

defend him was the famous Coun-

sellor Merry Payson.

All the hands played over the

"I was," replied Jones,
"I' was," replied Jones,
"Did you win the opening spade
lead with the ace and return the
suit?" Payson demanded.
"Of course. Declarer ruffed,
forced out the ace of trumps, won

the return, drew the last trump discarded a club on the hearts to make his contract. What's the problem?"
Payson rose to his full six feet. "Then you're the impostor," he roared "Any bridge expert would realize from the bidding that declarer could have only a singleton spade, and to return the suit would be pointless. Since whatever tricks declarer had to lose in the red suits would inevitably be lost, the only danger for the defense was that a club would go away. Therefore, a club shift at trick two would be mandatory. I don't know what happened to the real Cariton Jones. No doubt to the real Carlton Jones. No doubt his body will turn up somewhere!" Case dismissed.

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Papin denies Milan match-fixing allegations

PARIS (R) - French international striker Jean-Pierre Papin firmly denied Tuesday having said than Marseille had bribed two AC Milan players in order to win their first European

Cup.
"There's nothing to confirm because it's all been made up," Papin told French radio RMC. "It's manipulation."

In Geneva, the European soccer ruling body UEFA said Papin might be Summoned to explain the allegations but only if it was confirmed he made them. 'For us so far these are just rumours. It is not con-

that," a UEFA spokeswoman said. "If it is true that Papin has said that then we will ask him to appear in front of the (UEFA) disciplinary committee, to say it again

further deliberation.

Cup striker Klinsmann.

step would have been."

Bayern could face FIFA

rule over Klinsmann move

LONDON (R) - Bayern Munich could face disciplinary

action for making an illegal approach to Juergen Klins-

mann while he was playing for Tottenham Hotspur.
World governing body FIFA told the English Football

Association (F.A.) on Monday that the German club had

infringed their regulations regarding transfers and said they

had referred the matter to their disciplinary committee for

But Bayern did receive FIFA backing in a dispute with

Klinsmann's decision to return to Germany after one

season with the London club angered Tottenham chairman

Alan Sugar, but FIFA ruled that the player was perfectly

within his rights to leave Tottenham after only one year

They revealed that Klinsmann's contract with Tottenham

contained a provision that they would be willing to release

him any time after the first year (June 30, 1995) on

condition that they received a transfer fee of 22 million. FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter said in a statement released by the F.A.: "The wording of this contract clearly

contradicts Tottenham Hotspur's own argumentation it

has, therefore, to be admitted that it was really the

intention of the parties to fix the compensation in

Blatter added: "It was Tottenham's own fault that they

While FIFA are considering disciplinary action against

included such provision in the employment contract they

had signed with the player, whatever the reasons for such a

Bayern, they have completely exonerated Klinsmann of

The statement added: "No reproach can be made against

the player as to his behaviour in this case and no disciplinary steps may be taken against him."

because of an 'escape' clause in his two-year contract.

Spurs over the transfer fee. FIFA said they had to pay only \$2 million to the English Premier League club for World

firmed Papin has said

in front of the committee and to give proofs," she added.

Former Marseille striker Papin, who played in the final for Milan, was reported in Italian newspapers as saying that two Milan players took bribes to rig the 1993 final, won 1-0 by the French club.

"I had a friendly conversation with journalists and I told them there were rumours in Marseille about the final but I did not give names," Papin told RMC.

Papin's eye-opened "quotes" were splashed across the front pages of the main Italian sports

newspapers.
Shocked French soccer chiefs said UEFA should summon Papin and demand evidence to back the allegations against Marseille, whose fortunes collapsed in a French matchrigging scandal shortly after their 1-0 win over Milan in 1993.

"Allegations are one thing, evidence is another," said Claude Simonet, head of the French Football Federa-

"I believe UEFA cannot

be satisfied with allegations and has to open a probe," he said in a radio interview. The UEFA spokeswoman said the organisation had not yet launched an official investigation into the latest accusations.

It was still just collecting information about them. Marseille's former director general Jean-Pierre Bernes, who has in the past accused the club's flamboyant former president Bernard Tapie of widespread rigging, said the allegations reported in the

Italian papers were "rub-

bish."
"It's completely ridiculous," Bernes told Reuters. "You don't buy a European Cup final. Those socalled quotes are total nonsense." Marseille were banned

from European competition and relegated to the second division after being accused of rigging a French league game against Valenciennes shortly before the 1993 European Cup final. Tapie is fighting a two-

year jail sentence with one year suspended for corruption over that scandal, in which Bernes admitted playing a key-role. Veteran Marseille player Jean-Philippe Durand, who

iected allegations that the match had been fixed. "Papin doesn't know what he's saying and it's

played against AC Milan in the final in Munich, re-

sad to hear him talk like that," he told Reuters. "I was part of that great European adventure and I can tell you that the match was very tough. Never did the Milan players act in a way which might have suggested that they had been bought.

UEFA President Lennart Johansson said last month that UEFA was referring other new bribery allegations against Marseille to the French Football Federation.

According to newspaper reporters, the allegations arose from police investiga-tions into fraud at the club, Bernes is reported to have told investigators that Marseille paid a bribe to secure a draw against AEK Athens in November 1989, an allegation that has been rejected by the Greek club.

Police plan against hooligans at European Championships

LONDON (AFP) - Police outlined plans which will help prevent soccer hooliganism from ruining next summer's European Championships.

Intelligence gathering will play a key role, as will a 'hooligan hotline" to encourage genuine fans to supply information, in confidence. on_thugs.

Police forces from countries whose national teams qualify will be invited to send 'spotters" — officers who will point out known foreign troublemakers.

And intelligence officers up and down the country are co-ordinating efforts to snare the principal organisers of the violence.

The launch of the hotline was warmly welcomed by Home Secretary Michael Howard. Referring to the violence which forced the abandonment of February's England v Republic of Ireland friendly in Dublin, he said: 'Following the incidents of disorder last season it is important that the game -beceives coverage for all the right reasons.

'Genuine fans can help to make this possible and I urge

them to do so by making use of the hotline."

The National Criminal Intelligence Service, which is co-ordinating police efforts at the championships, said that 18 months of planning involving the Football Association, Hame Office, Foreign Office, the Association of Chief Police Officers and individual police forces had already been undertaken.

Detective Superintendent Larry Covington, head of NCIS's strategic and specialist intelligence branch, said foreign liaison was an important branch of the organisa-

"We are already in liaison with foreign law enforcement officers to ensure we have good information for those hooligans from foreign countries, some of which have similar problems to the U.K.," he said.

Each of the 15 qualifying nations would be invited to send officers with specialist knowledge of their own country's hooligans, to help Britpolice identify potential

troublemakers. Detective Inspector Peter

Chapman, head of NCIS's football unit, said he had a database containing the names of 6,000 suspects, including up to 400 "main orga-

DS Covington said: "The kingpins don't tend to get their hands dirty, so you need to gather information and evidence against them and that is being done."

NCIS's hooligan hotline is designed to allow genuine fans to help combat the problem by passing to the police information on hooligan activity in confidence.

And a poster was launched to promote it — comparing a picture of an orderly football crowd from earlier in the century with another of a modern day mob involved in punch up.

DS Covington said: "There is no reason why the championships should not be extremely successful. We are determined that they are going to be. We want to make sure the U.K. is put firmly back on the map as far as being a really good place to watch football is concerned.`

NBC to pay \$1.27 billion for Olympics TV rights

NEW YORK (R) — NBC agreed on Monday to pay a stunning \$1.27 billion for U.S. television rights to the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000) and the Winter Olympies in Salt Lake City in 2002.

The deal, put together in under a week as a preemptive, take-it-or-lose-it proposition to the International. Olympic Committee and the two national organising groups, shuts out Fox television and other U.S. networks without hope of a counterbid.

NBC next year will broadcust in the United States the 1996 Summer Games from Atlanta.

Network president Robert Wright said his company would not have paid \$715 million for the Australian events and \$555 million for the U.S. games separately, but believed the two together constituted a profitable pack-

By contrast, NBC agreed

during 1993 bidding among all the U.S. networks to pay \$454 million for the U.S. rights to the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, Those games are expected to draw unusually

strong U.S. audiences. Wright told reporters after announcing the deal that NBC had sold more than 80 per cent of its advertising slots for the 1996 Olympics and had grossed over \$600 million so far.

NBC is owned by General Electric Corp.

Wright and Olympic officials said a key demand from the Olympic committee was that U.S. television coverage involve additional distribution on cable channels. beyond the roughly 100 hours usually carned on a broadcast network.

NBC. Wright said, will carry extensive coverage during both the Sydney and Utah, Games on its CNBC and America's talking cable services. NBC also agreed to

the Olympics for four years beginning in 1996.

Olympic officials said the \$1.27 billion was much higher than either the Sydney or Utah organisers expected

from the rights sale. Fox. the U.S. network owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp Ltd., had been expected to be a strong bidder for the Sydney Olympics during comptition among the four leading U.S. networks that had been expected to

begin next month. Murdoch shook of U.S. television two years ago by outbidding CBS Inc. For national football league game rights, a move that strengthened the Fox network.

Murdoch said in a May interview with the times of London that the Fox coverage would have included payper-view cable programming. but NBC said all its coverage would be on terrestrial television of basic cable channels.

Global visitors test Games' venues

ATLANTA (Agencies) — The world is gathering here a year early.

This week marks the most hectic period of pre-Olympic sporting events at 1996 Atlanta Summer Games venues, with 13,000 competitors playing in eight international events designed to test facilities, personnel and plan-

ning.
"The eyes of the world will be here," Olympic organising committee president Billy Payne said. "The world will be impressed."

The Pan Pacific Swim Championships and World Freestyle Wrestling Championships highlight the busy week, with other special competitions in badminton, table tennis, weightlifting, field hockey, modern pentathlon and team handball.

A new \$17 million aquatic centre gets its sternest test when 300 swimmers from 33 nations converge for the biannual PanPacs, typically dominated by the United States and Australia.

Japan, Canada and New Zealand will be factors in several events, with Kiwi Olympic silver medallist Danyon Loader likely to shine. Australia's Kieren Perkins, the reigning Olympic 1,500metre freestyle champion, figures to own the men's distance events.

"I don't even try to beat Perkins. He's too good," U.S. 1,500 champion Carlton Bruner said. "American distance swimming is not very good. I don't know how those guys (from Australia) do it." Chinese swimmers were

banned from the PanPac meet for numerous drug test positives in the past four years. But Chinese table tennis players are favourites along with South Korea, which joins a handful of European contenders in quest of the handball invitational crown.

Wrestling provides the only world finals among the tuneups, with Russia, Iran. Turkey, South Korea and Cuba and the hosts among the favourites.

Indonesian star Susi Susanti will miss the badminton invitational with an injury, organisers said. But her homeland provides some of two hours of Atlanta.

the sport's top players. The weekend concludes with single day events for weightlifters and modern pentathletes. The Georgia International Horse Park will also receive its first test with the pentathlon competition.

The olympic tuneups continue here in September with water polo, diving and canoe-Kayak events. Cycling and gymnastics previews will complete the year, with archery and shooting venues hosting invitationals in April and the Olympic athletes track getting its first test next

'Hotel rooms in Atlanta already are tough to find'

For many visitors, each day at the Atlanta Olympics will start with a personal marathon of 160 kilometres from Chattanooga, Tennessee, or 240 kilometres from Birmingham, Alabama.

There is a year to go before the Summer Games and it's already an Olympic challenge to find a hotel room within

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Now, you're talking FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT TEL.: 863750 FAX.: 863770 Ekeus must finish his probe into

germ warfare this month — Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Agencies) -Iraqi President Saddam Hussein called Tuesday for a durable peace with Iran but urged it to return all prisoners from the 1980-1988 war as well as aircraft sheltered there during the U.S.-led Gulf war in 1991.

In 'a speech marking the end of Iraq's eight-year war with Iran, President Saddam "we mistakingly believed" Tehran would return the 148 aircraft because it had also been in conflict with the United States.

"If it wants (good) relations with Iraq, Iran must return Iraq's possessions," he said over state radio and tele-

He also demanded Iran return all Iraqi soldiers taken prisoners during the war. Our prisoners of war are still... suffering and moaning in Iranian prisons.

President Saddam renewedcalls for peace with Iran even though he said it had ignored a total of 215 peace initiatives from Baghdad.

Iraq celebrates Aug. 8, 1988 as the day of victory over Iran.

The two countries have never signed a peace treaty. although they implemented a ceasefire in Aug. 20, 1988 and restored diplomatic ties on Sept. 10, 1990 when Iraq faced a U.S.-led military buildup over its invasion of

Ties between Tehran and Baghdad were broken in October 1987.

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President Saddam said he refused to make concessions on Iraq's main demands even though Tehran believed Iraq was vulnerable because of the U.N. economic sanctions imposed after the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. 'We have told the Iranians

who mistakingly believed that conditions could force us into accepting compromise at the expense of our principles," he said.

Iraq said it flew 115 military and 33 civilian aircraft to escape U.S.-led bombing in 1991, but Iraq claims to have sheltered only 22 planes and has offered to return them if the United Nations issues. a



request for them Baghdad, backed by international groups, also accuses Tehran of holding around 20,000 Iraqi soldiers, but Iran denies this. Tehran meanwhile said 15,000 Iranians were in Iraqi jails or unaccounted for in Iraq.

Baghdad denied the claim. saying it has already freed 39,044 Iranians under the supervision of the International

committee of the Red Cross. "We have repatriated Iran's prisoners of war (PoWs) as a gesture of goodwill without any bargaining just to open up peace prospects between our country, its people and Iran," President Saddam said.

President Sddam said Iraqi ground forces fought 282 battles, or one every 10 days throughout the eight-year war, and deployed a total of 8,495 tanks, 11,939 armoured vehicles, 4,659 artillery of all kinds, and 5,859 mortars.

It also deployed 740 aircraft, 808 helicopters, and 57 naval units, including boats, landing vessels, hovercraft,. anti-submarine vessels and mineweepers.

Full-scale war began on Sept. 22; 1980 when Iraqi forces entered Iran, more than a year after the Shifte Muslim revolution in Tehran, and ended eight years later in virtual stalemate.

Meanwhile, Iraq has told the U.N.'s chief arms control envoy that the United Nations must finish its investigation of Iraq's past germ war-fare activities by the end of August, a spokesman said in remarks published on Tues-

day.

The spokesman for the Culture and Information Ministry said Iraq had made clear to the envoy, Rolf Ekeus, during his latest visit to Baghdad that it was stand-

ing by its deadline.
"Rolf Ekeus... was clearly and frankly told during his meeting with Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz on Saturday that he will have to close the biological file by the end of August," statecontrolled newspapers quoted the spokesman as

Mr. Ekeus, head of the Special Commission (UNSCOM) charged with disarming Iraq under the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire terms, visited Baghdad from Aug. 4-6.

In a news conference before leaving, he said he did not touch on the Iraqi deadline during his talks in Bagh-

dad.
"This statement is inaccurate," the spokesman said. adding that Mr. Ekeus was told to inform the U.N. Security Council that Iraq had honoured obligations linked to renewal of U.N. curbs in its oil exports.
Iraq gave Mr. Ekeus a 530-

page document on its past biological activities. He initially described the report as "full, final and complete" but said he needed time to verify its contents.

Later, he said that after the first scrutiny his experts found that the report might not be thoroughly complete. The newspapers said Mr.

Aziz informed Iraqi leaders in a meeting chaired by President Saddam late on Monday that he had communicated to Mr. Ekeus Iraq's "obvious and decisive stand vis-a-vis relations with UNSCOM and the Security Council."

The remarks by Mr. Ekeus when he wound up his visit on Sunday suggested it was unlikely he would finish his mission by the end of August,

(Continued on page 7)

Cairo to release 20 **Brotherhood members**

CAIRO (Agencies) Egypt's high security pro-secutor ordered the release on Tuesday of 20 members of the Muslim Brotherhood arrested in July on suspicion of seeking to overthrow the state, legal sources here said.

Meanwhile, the interior ministry set free 110 other Brotherhood members arrested in the same case, a day after prosecutors ordered an end to their detention, police sources

Both groups were among-180 people arrested July 28 in a scout camp near the north coast city of Alexandria in the largest sweep against the group since President Hosni Mubarak came to power in 1991.

The 50 still held in detention for investigation are accused taking martial arts training to perform "combat missions" and belonging to a secret organisation seeking to topple the gov-

Banned in 1954, the Muslim Brotherhood has been tolerated since the mid 1970s when the group said it renounced violence in its bid to create an Islamic state in Egypt.

But police have stepped up arrests against the group since President Mubarak accused it in early 1994 of supporting armed Muslim extremists waging a violent three-year campaign against the state.

The Brotherhood denies the charges, saying the crackdown aim to prevent them from entering legislative elections planned for later this year.

Hamas appeal

The Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas urged the Egyptian government on Tuesday to free the Brotherhood mem-

"Hamas regrets the Egyptian government's arrests of members of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and urges the authorities to free the detainees," Hamas said in a statement faxed to Reuters in Damascus. · It called on Cairo to

"abort schemes aimed at creating discord among the Egyptian people."
Meanwhile, the armed

fundamentalist group Talaeh Al Fatah (Vanguard of the Conquest) vowed Tuesday to wipe out President Mubarak following the execution of two of its militants. "We pledge in the name

of God not to leave you alone, Mubark, and the sons of the movement are determined to liquidate you and destroy you, you will see," the group said in a statement. After recalling that

"Mubarak's heretical regime executed two mujahedeen, the militant group said it would continue its holy war "as long as we are alive and until the fall of the regime."

The two militants, Hossam Hassan Ismail and Ahmad Mahmud Abdul Rahim, were executed Sunday after being convicted of the murders of a policeman in Suez in 1993 and three Coptic Christian civilians in February 1994.

Talaeh Al Fatah is considered the armed wing of Al Jihad, the fundamentalist group responsible for the assassination of former president Anwar Al Sadat in 1981.

It also welcomed a failed attempt by another Islamic militant group, the Gamaa Islamiyah, to kill Sadat's successor, Mr. Mubarak, in Addis Ababa on June 26.

"We are convinced that the victory of God is close and the so of Jihad (holy war) are capable of striking mortal blows at apostates.... what our brothers, the Gamaa Islamiyah martyrs, did in Addis Ababa is the proof," the statement

Talaeh Al Fatah claimed two abortive assassination attempts against Prime. Minister Atef Sedki in November 1993 and Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfi three months earlier.

Sudan says it will not relinguish Halaib

KHARTOUM (AFP) Sudan will "cling" to its rights in a disputed border region even as Egypt conducts an aggressive campaign to absorb the Halaib area, the head of Sudan's border police said on Tues-

General Ahmad Al Hussein told the daily Al Engaz Al Watani that Sudan "will cling to its rights in Halaib as guaranteed by United Nations resolutions and agreements stating that inherited borders should remain without modifications."

"Aggression by Egyptian authorities in Halaib triangle is illegal and uniustified," Mr. Hussein said, underlining that Sudan possessed documents and evidence of its claim on the territory.

He accused Egypt of continuing "provocative acts by coercing Sudanese families into leaving Halaib town," despite Khartoum's "efforts to contain the situation and overcome the

crisis." The Egyptian army has massed "more of its forces in the triangle and at Argin town, north of the Sudanese town of Halfa, Mr. Hussein said.

Such "escalation will not contribute to settlement of the problem but will rather lead to further escalation.' he warned.

Egypt says its border with Sudan runs along the 22th parallel, placing the 18,000 square kilometres Halaib region in its territory, based on a 1899 treaty between London and

Cairo. Khartoum says the treaty was later amended to give it Halaib, most of whose population is ethnically Sudanese.



garrison city from rebel Serbs after four years of occupation

ALGIERS (AFP) - An AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday Algerian journalist kidnapvisited the Prime Ministry where he met for a while with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. The meeting was ped a week ago has been found murdered, the reporattended by His Royal Highness Prince Hamzah Ben Al Hussein and Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem. ter's employer said Tuesday.

JUBILATION: Croatian soldiers rip a Serbian flag in

Sharif Zeid on private visit abroad

AMMAN (J.T.) - Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker

left Amman Tuesday on a two-day private visit abroad, the

Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. It did not say where

AMMAN (Petra) - The King Hussein Bridge on the River

Jordan will be closed for traffic for two days as of Friday

11:00 a.m. for maintenance work, the Public Security

Department said. The bridge will resume traffic as of

NICOSIA (AP) - Iranian engineers have extended the

range of the Islamic republic's MiG-29 fighter jets by

equipping them with in-flight refuelling capabilities for the

first time, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)

reported Tuesday. The system will turn the twin-engine

fighter iet "into a warplane able to carryout multipurpose

offensive and strategic missions," according to the state-run agency. It added that the automatic refuelling system

will also increase the duration of reconnaissance flights and

diminish the need to have air bases near Iran's borders that

could be vulnerable to hostile action. Iran has two MiG-29

squadrons with 30 fighters, including four Iraqi MiG-29s

flown to Iran during the 1991 Gulf war and not returned.

and Chinese fighter and ground attack aircraft, according

to the London-based International Institute for Strategic

Studies. Iran's efforts to enhance its military power have

caused concern among U.S. military strategists, who fear a

TEHRAN (AFP) - Police have imposed strict new

regulations on weddings in Tehran to ensure they conform

with Islamic standards, newspapers reported here Tuesday.

They said police had issued a statement banning a range of

activities traditionally associated with wedding ceremonies

in Tran. Under the new measures, male and female guests

must be separated and the groom is not allowed to visit

rooms occupied by women. The bride must keep fully

covered while moving about during the ceremony. Music

bands are not to be hired and any singer invited must be

approved by the ministry of culture and Islamic guidance,

according to the statement. Males are not allowed to serve

in the women's section and photographers can only take

pictures of guests of the same sex. Any wedding procession

in the streets must be kept low-key and the car carrying the

newly-weds should not be elaborately decorated. Previous

regulations have been widely defied despite close police

TEHRAN (AFP) - The Interior Ministry on Tuesday

ruled out any chance of legalising a pro-democracy opposition movement in Iran, but said the government would continue to tolerate the group. The Liberation Movement of Iran (LMI) would be allowed to continue

playing an informal political role despite its "open criticism

of Iranian leaders in foreign media," said Assadollah

Badamchian, a member of a ministry commission in charge

of political activities. Individual LMI members could run as

candidates in the March 8 legislative elections, provided

they pass thorough scrutiny by a supervisory council, he said in a press conference. Mr. Badamchian is one of five

members of the ministry's Commission of the Article 10 on

Parties, dominated by Islamic conservatives, which issues

or revokes licences for parties or other groups to engage in

political activities. Mr. Badamchian said the LMI, headed

by former Foreign Minister Ebrahim Yazdi, had been flatly

denied formal political activities by the judiciary, although

the group has appealed the decision. Last week, 122 liberal

political figures belonging or close to the LMI signed a

letter protesting extra powers granted by parliament to the

Arafat meets Palestinian dissidents

NABLUS (AFP) — Five dissidents from a Palestinian

group opposed to autonomy have held reconciliation talks

with Yasser Arafat, one of the men said Tuesday. The five

are from Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation

of Palestine - General Command (PFLP-GC) which is

fighting on against Israeli occupation and the self-rule deal.

The dissidents said they asked Mr. Arafat to allow 100

PFLP-GC people to return to the Gaza Strip and hold an

annual convention to oust Mr. Jibril as leader. "We told

Mr. Arafat that we want to join the Palestinian Authority

Salim Abu Al Saud told AFP. "The president of the

said Mr. Abu Al Saud, from the occupied West Bank town

of Nablus, Mr. Jibril, who called for Mr. Arafat to be killed

after the signing of the declaration of principles for

autonomy with Israel in 1993, has his headquarters in

Damascus along with nine other Palestinian opposition

and take part in the reconstruction of our homeland,

Palestinian Authority promised to examine our request.

Council of Guardians to oversee elections.

Tehran rules out legalising party

threat to Washington's oil-rich allies in the region.

Tough rules on weddings in Iran

e air force has another 13 squadrons of U.S., Russian

King visits Prime Ministry

Bridge to close for 2 days

Iran extends warplanes' range

Sharif Zeid was going.

Sunday morning Aug. 13.

of Algiers, the weekly newspapers Hebdo Libere said. Benamar, on leave from the newspaper, was abducted on Aug. 1 and tortured by

attackers who then cut her throat, the paper said, adding that her body was identified on Tuesday. No details were available

The Armed Islamic Group (GIA) claimed responsibility

injured.

Benamar's death brings to 37 the number of journalists assassinated in Algeria since

Most recently, an armed group on June 18 kidnapped

two journalists who were kidnapped from their homes are unknown, and threats by armed groups have driven dozens of other journalists into exile.

key groups targeted by fundamentalists, especially the most radical of them the

those who fight "with the pen" perish by the sword. Meanwhile, security forces killed about 100 armed Isla-

DUBAI (AFP) - Two rival

Kurdish factions will meet in

Dublin Wednesday for three

days of talks aimed at ending

their bloody conflict in north-

ern Iraq, which risks shatter-

ing the coalition opposed to

the government of President Saddam Hussein.

by the United States, with a

Turkish observer in atte-

nance, Kurdish officials said.

The PUK and the KDP will

try to reestablish the joint

administration they formed in 1992 in Iraqi Kurdistan

after seizing control of the area from Baghdad, with help from U.S., French and

"We have to resolve three

issues: the reestablishment of

political authority, the de-militarisation of Erbil (capital

of Kurdistan) and the collec-

tion of revenue from border

taxes," Fawzi Al Atrushi, the

KDP's representative in Lon-

don, told AFP by telephone. He said demilitarising Er-

bil, controlled by the PUK

since December, and the col-

lection of taxes by the KDP

along the border with Turkey

and Iran, could only be set-

tled after an agreement was reached on establishing a re-

"The neutralisation of Er-

bil will allow the Kurdish

government and parliament to function again," he said. A PUK official in Ankara,

Sazan Saeb, added: "It is

necessary to reestablish the

government so it can assume

gional administration.

British military aircover.

They are being mediated

Kurds meet in Dublin to

resolve bloody conflict

mic militants in a crackdown triggered by a bomb attack on a military vehicle near

Aicha Benamar, 36, was killed near her home in Saoula, 20 kilometres south

on the exact details of the murder, or on who carried it

for an attack on the headquarters of Habdo Libere, in the centre of Algiers, in March 1994, in which three people, including a photo-grapher, were killed and two

and cut the throat of journalist Hakim Takouchet, who worked for a regional television station in eastern Alger-The wherebouts of further

Journalists are one of the

Its former leader Mourad

Si Ahmad, vowed to make

Algiers, another newspaper said Tuesday.

The attack last Wednesday on the vehicle at Larbaa, 30 kilometres from Algiers, left from soldiers dead, the daily Al Watan said. With a spate of recent attacks, including a truck-

bomb attack on a power station near Algiers Sunday which killed 11 people, observers say violence in Algeria is escalating. After last Wednesday's

bomb attack, the security forces unleashed a "vast dragnet," said Al Watan. Arrests they carried out allowed them to track down the hideout of a group of armed militants. After a four-hour battle

this group was reduced to nine men. According to Al Watan, their mission was to cover the flight of other groups and to slow down the advance of the security

But after three days of further investigations, having received reinforcements and tightened their grip on the region, security forces discovered another hideout, which was attacked. About a hundred men died in this operation, the newspaper said.

The Larbaa region is part of what is known as the "Triangle of Death," where attacks by Islamic militants fighting the military-backed government are frequent. According to the daily La

Tribune, a rocket-launcher was probably used in an attack Sunday on a police vehicle at Kouba, on the outskirts of Algiers, which killed two and wounded about ten people - and not a grenade. as indicated in initial newspaper reports.

responsibility for taxes."

The presence of a Turkish

representative at the negotia-

tions "is essential to assure

the application of any

accord" and "calm Ankara's

fear of seeing the PUK and

KDP declare an independent

state in northern Iraq." Mr.

working for an autonomous

government as part of a

federal Iraq, and not for

Turkey has an "interest in

establishing new countries,"

the region remaining stable,"

he said, adding that peace

betwen the two factions

would foster more control of

northern Iraq and prevent

the establishment of turkish

Kurd separatists from the

Kurdish Labour Party

several large military incur-

sions against PKK bases in

Fighting between the KDP and the PUK has caused

more than 2,000 deaths since

May 1994. The conflict

threatens to split apart the

Iraqi National Congress (INC), which groups all the

Iraqi opposition factions and

has been supported by the

According to an INC offi-

cial in London, Kassem Gha-

li, the fighting paralyses "the

other opposition groups,

which pass their time trying to reconcile? Lead of acting to toppis me Iraqi regime."

United States and Britain.

Turkish troops have made

"The Kurds in Iraq are

Saeb said.

he said.

(PKK).

northern Iraq.

theme pub in the casino called The Prince Albert. She said the bistro area became a bar after 10 p.m. and as the change-over time approached the group was asked to show identification as proof of age. "Peter was one of the bovs who was under 18 and asked to leave," the spokeswoman told Reuters. "Others in the group were over 18 and they stayed on while the younger ones or ones without I.D.

Clinton's friend goes to prison

CUMBERLAND, Maryland (AFP) — Webster Hubbell, a close friend of President Bill Clinton and a former highranking government official, checked into a minimum security prison Monday to begin his 21-month sentence for fraud. Mr. Hubbell, sentenced in June for bilking nearly \$500,000 from clients of Arkansas' Rose Law Firm, whose partners included First Lady Hillary Clinton, had served as the third-ranking official at the U.S. Justice Department. With just six minutes to spare before a noon deadline, Mr. Hubbeil checked into the Federal Correctional Institution inwestern Maryland. The prison camp is used mostly for non-violent, first-time offen-

American stopped by police for refusing inflight meal

MANILA (AFP) - A Manila-based American-businessman said Tuesday that he was stopped by Osaka of his airline flight reported. that he had refused his meal-Police told Ted Joffe that the airline had reported that he neithter ate nor drank during the flight which could indicate that he had swallowd drugs to smuggle into Japan," the American wrote to AFP. Mr. Joffe, general manager of American Minerals Inc., boarded the late afternoon flight of Thai Airways International here: bound for Osaka Friday During the three-and-a-halfhour flight be refused the dinner offered by the crew and ordered a soft drink as he. had had a late lunch. Upon his arrival at Osaka's Kansai International Airport, Mr.
Joffe said he was led by air port police to a separate room for a body search, but was later released without 8

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LOS ANGELES (R) — Lacry Hagman, who became J.R. Ewing in the long running Dallas series, had had surgery on a liver tumonic to buy more time while wait ing for a donor organ, his doctor said. Dr. Leonard Makowka, a liver transportation at Cedars Single Medical Centre, said the operation took place Saturday morning "to give Larry that extra insurance" while he waits for a new liver. Discourse the constraint of the constraint Makowka said the operation consisted of bombarding the tumour with chemotherapy to neutralise it. "We really blasted it," he said. The tumour was discovered last month and Hagman, 63, was immediately put on a nation al donor organ list. In addition to the tumour, he is suffering from cirrhosis of the liver, which was diagnosed three years ago. Dr. Makowka described the tumour as being between the size of a. small rock and a golf ball and said Hagman had "absolutely no complications" from the surgery. He said Hagman was now on vacation with his wife and was wearing a beeper so he could be paged in the event a suitable liver becom-

Princess Anne's son asked to leave bar

es available.

SYDNEY (R) - The teenage son of Britain's Princess Anne, Peter Philips, was asked to leave the bar area of an Australian casino for being under-age, a casino spokeswoman said Tuesday. The spokeswoman for the Conrad Jupiters Casino on the Gold Coast in Queensland said Philips, 17, was with a group of about 20 school friends Monday night in the bistro area of an Englishleft. They were all very well

Grateful Dead's Garcia dies NOVATO, California .

- Jenry Garcia, the le member and guillers of rock group The Grands has died, its County sheriff's departable was found dead. was found dead in the hours of the morning , room at a treatment of drug addicts. Dan phy of the sheriff said. He was found by a addiction course or Se attempts were made to to the musician by a name police officers, Mr. Mr. said, but without suc The Grateful Dead 5.75

to fame in the music wor the late 1960s. Kurds in secret talks in Ireland DUBLIN (R) - Rival

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